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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether it is addressed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payments.

2. If a person orders his papers discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The Courts have decided that refusing to take Newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

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FIRST EDITION.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The Eastern Question.

PROGRAMME OF RUSSIA.

BERLIN, January 5.—Russia intends after the final rupture of the negotiations to ask the Powers for authorization to enforce the proposals of the conference in their name. Turkey's final refusal is anticipated, and the conference will then have no further business at Constantinople.

Russian papers are greatly exasperated at what they term the pusillanimity of Germany and Austria.

MODIFICATIONS IN PROPOSALS NOT YET SUBMITTED.

LONDON, January 5.—There is reason to belive that the modifications of the European proposals adopted at the confidential meeting of the European plenipotentiaries on Tuesday last were not mentioned at the sitting of the conference to-day.

The Emperor William has issued a special order forbidding German officers on the active list from entering the Russian army.

MORE DISAFFECTION.

LONDON, January 5.—A dispatch from Constantinople says: The Austrian Slavs here are becoming more and more incensed against the Russians, in consequence of the project of General Ignatieff, Russian Plenipotentiary, of annexing old Servia to one of the provinces into which Bulgaria, according to the Russian proposals, is to be divided. News has been received confirmatory of the deep indignation of the Greeks at the proposals of the conference, which tend to subordinate the Greeks to the Bulgarians, and sacrifice the Turkish Greek populations to the Slavs. The hope is unanimous that Midhat Pasha will be able to carry out the reforms single-handed.

ROUMANIA TAKES A BOLD STAND.

BUCHAREST, January 5.—The Roumanian Senate has adopted a resolution declaring that the rights of Roumania shall remain intact, and calling upon the Government to maintain them in a manner worthy of the State.

THE VERY LATEST.

LONDON, January 6.—The *Standard's* special from Constantinople, after reviewing the proceedings in Thursday's sitting of the conference, expresses the opinion that the dangerous part of the crisis is over. The Paris *Moniteur*, which is in close relation with the Foreign Office, however, publishes the following paragraph: We regret to state that the disposition of Turkey was not improved in Thursday's sitting, and leaves very little hope of an arrangement by diplomacy, though the conference meets again on Monday. If the situation is not modified, it may even now be stated that the task of England is ended.

The *Standard's* Belgrade dispatch says the Servian Government continues to arm, and demands that all armistice be abrogated, as Servia cannot bear the prolonged uncertainty which makes it imparative to keep her people in arms.

A Bucharest dispatch states that Russian officers are reconnoitering the lower Danube to find crossing places, and ships are being contracted for for crossing.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Standard* says there have been several executions in the Russian mobilized regiments because of gross breaches of discipline and revolting murderings.

The *Post's* telegram from Berlin states that it is affirmed that negotiations will be carried on at Constantinople in consequence of the Czar's offering General Manteuffel the command of the mobilized army. General Manteuffel, although at first disposed to accept, declined in consequence of the Emperor's prohibition.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* says: It is stated that Austria and Germany have announced negotiations upon the expediency of promoting Roumania's desire to have her territory declared independent and neu'ral to secure its neutrality in the event of impending conflict. Turkey seemed inclined to favor the idea.

The Russian Telegraphic Agency reports that the plenipotentiaries remain united, and are resolved to urge on Turkey the unanimous decisions of Europe.

The *Times* prints prominently a Berlin special dispatch repudiating the statement that there will be no absolute rupture between the European Powers and Turkey. If the latter does not yield, the ambassadors will depart, leaving charges d'affaires to transact current business and continue the negotiations.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* communicates further particulars of Thursday's sitting of the conference. He states that the plenipotentiaries submitted to the Porte a programme substituting a consular commission instead of a military commission as at first proposed, and a plan for a corps of volunteers to be incorporated in Cadres, recruited in neutral territory, for what was originally the foreign occupation scheme. The delegates were greatly surprised by Saivet Pasha reading a declaration in which the Porte deemed itself obliged to reject the proposals because they were contrary to principles of Ottoman independence and to the new Constitution. The Europeans warned the Porte of the danger it ran in thus defying Europe, as Russia had made preparations which compelled her to go to war unless she obtained adequate satisfaction, and the Powers were agreed that a peremptory refusal was the most dangerous affront the Porte could offer Europe. Safvet then said the Porte, to show its desire for an understanding and deference toward Europe, accepted the Bulgarian volunteer project, believing it thus satisfied all legitimate and even the most exaggerated susceptibilities. The conference, after this unexpected and insufficient conclusion, adjourned until Monday, in the hope, meanwile, of affecting a compromise on other points. It is said that Sadyk Pasha will meanwhile be appointed Turkish Foreign Minister, wh ch would indicate a favorable change of policy.

The *Times'* Paris correspondent, continuing the same telegram, quotes a letter written by one of the most eminent members of the conference, to show that the complete change in the attitude of the Turkish Porte, by which it now proposes terms to Europe instead of *vice versa*, is due to the fact, of which the Turks are fully aware, that Russian mobilization has completely broken down, and that none of the other European Powers are prepared to exert anything but moral pressure.

The *Telegraph* confirms the report of the acceptance by the Porte of the proposition for the formation of a mixed militia, but says the question of the definitive constitution of the force is left for future consideration. The Porte maintains its objections to the other proposals of the Powers.

Spain.

THE EXTRADITION TREATY SIGNED.

MADRID, January 5.—The extradition treaty between Spain and the United States has been signed. It applies to all criminal offenses except those of a political nature.

The Cortes has been prorogued. No date is assigned for its reassembling.

FOREIGN NOTES.

The specie in the Imperial Bank of Germany decreased 10,651,000 marks during the year.

The steamships City of Berlin and Wyoming, from New York, and the Caspian, from Baltimore, have arrived out.

It is reported that the Anchor Line steamer Assyria, from New York, December 16, which arrived at Glasgow January 3d, jettisoned part of her cargo on the passage.

The London *Official Gazette* announces that the English Minister at Teheran telegraphs that in consequence of the unprecedented scarcity, the exportation of grain from Bushire and the Persian gulf is prohibited.

The Federal Council of Germany has made an important constitutional concession to Alsace-Lorraine, having agreed to the proposal that measures passed by the Provincial Board of Representatives if approved by the Federal Council shall become laws, without previous approval or cognizance of the German Parliament.

TELEGRAPHIC PERSONALS.

A large meeting of citizens of Nashville was held yesterday, Colonel John C. Burch, editor of the *American*, presiding. Resolutions of respect and regret at the death of Commodore Vanderbilt were adopted. Governor Porter sent a special message to the Legislature regarding the death of Commodore Vanderbilt. Committees were appointed to draft resolutions.

The pigeon match between Bogardus and Dr. W. F. Carver, at San Francisco on Thursday, at thirty birds, English rules, thirty yards, resulted as follows: Bogardus, 26; Carver 25. Twenty birds, Prairie Club rules, twenty one yards, Bogardus, 18; Carver, 15. Five birds, Prairie Club rules, eighteen yards, Bogardus, 5; Carver, 1.

A Salem, Oregon, dispatch says Bush, of Ladd & Bush, bankers, has been summoned to Washington. Bush came to the State House about noon on the day of counting the electoral vote. The Republicans and Democrats were awaiting his arrival with great anxiety, and it was asserted at the time that he was Tilden's disbursing agent, and the programme carried out then was not assured till his arrival at the State House.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 5, 1877.

SENATE.

Mr. Morton called up the resolution submitted by the Committee on Privileges and Elections on Wednesday last, declaring that William M. Turner was in duty bound under his oath to answer the questions propounded to him by the committee in regard to the transmission of telegraphic messages through his office at Jacksonville, Oregon, and that he cannot excuse himself from answering the same by reason of his official connection with the Western Union Telegraph Company, as manager of their office at Jacksonville, Oregon.

Mr. Kelly hoped the resolution would be adopted. There was no reason why telegraphic communications should not be made public when justice demanded it. It was a well known principle of law that written communications, no matter how confidential, must be produced in courts of justice when necessary to serve the ends of justice, and nothing was more sacred than a confidential letter between two persons. Turner had unquestionably been leaky. He had disclosed something about the dispatches passing thaough his office, and now he should be made to tell the whole. He [Kelly] was very confident no communication which passed over the wire referring to political events at Salem, Oregon, would show that anything wrong had been done. If any improper telegram had passed over the wire he [Kelly] would have known something about it; he was satisfied nothing improper could be shown; that not a dollar had been expended unlawfully and improperly. He was present at Salem at the time and knew of all transactions.

The question was discussed at length, and finally a vote was taken, which resulted yeas 33, nays 3, no quorum voting.

The President laid before the Senate memorials of the National Board of Trade of the United States, praying for a revision of the Bankrupt law, and of the Tariff and Internal Revenue laws. Referred to the Committees on Judiciary and Finance.

The Senate adjourned until Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. Atkins, of Tennessee, the Senate amendments to the bill making appropriations for the payment of invalid and other pensions were concurred in.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Hooker in the chair, on the private calendar.

While the committee rose, the question of the recusant witness, Mr. Barnes, the New Orleans Manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, was taken up. Mr. Barnes was before the bar of the House and submitted in writing his answer as prepared by his counsel, the answer being under oath.

The answer of the witness and all questions relating thereto have been referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The Sergeant-at-Arms was directed to retain Mr. Barnes in custody. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Contingency Deficiency bill, Mr. Hoskins, of New York, in the chair.

After about two hours spent over the Deficiency bill, the committee rose, and the bill was passed.

The House adjourned till to-morrow.

THE RAILROAD HORROR.

The Coroner's Inquest—Additional Testimony.

CLEVELAND, January 5.—The *Leader* special gives the following: The Coroner's jury resumed the examination of witness at one P. M. John P. Manning was sworn: Resides in Ashtabula; is manager of the depot telegraph office at the Lake Shore office; has means of knowing of all messages received at that depot while there; was at the depot at the time of accident; remained at the post from that time till Sunday morning at about three o'clock; no record is kept in his office of dispatches which might be sent by any railroad official along the line of the road to any officer here; had knowledge of all such communications sent during that night; no message was received by an official here concerning the application of water to the fire; no messages relating to the fire were received by him; he telegraphed to Mr. Couch, Superintendent of the Erie division, that the firemen were on the ground; has no knowledge whatever that any order being received to let the wreck burn; he has no knowledge of any general orders, understanding or desire existing between the officers of the corporation to let a wreck burn in the case of where lives have been lost.

C. L. Scoville sworn: Resides in Ashtabula; is engineer of the steamer Neptune; went to the depot without the engine, which was then in condition for use; heard some one say that they did not need the water, but wanted help; many persons asked him [Scoville] why he didn't throw water; he answered that he had orders to return with his engine; they told him that the bodies were burning; he said if that is the case, he will not use his engine; did so, and then blew the whistle for hose, but no hose came; he then went to the wreck, and in search of hose; could not find the hose; then went back on the wreck and saw bodies burning, and said "My God, why don't they throw water;" then returned to care for his engine; he could have thrown water then if he had had hose; had no control over the hose.

S. W. Simmons sworn: Resides in Ashtabula; is night ticket agent at the Lake Shore depot; knows nothing of any order being received that night by Mr. Strong concerning the throwing of water on the fire; has never told any one that such an order had been received.

Henry Apthorp sworn: Resides in Ashtabula; is employed by the Lake Shore Railroad Company and Western Union Telegraph Company jointly; heard the crash of the falling bridge and hastened to the wreck; climbing into a sleeping car, he helped one man out who was in an almost unconscious state; he thinks that was the only passenger left in that car; he went to the next car and found no one; he went then in search of the day coaches, which are more filled than the sleepers; has no knowledge of any orders from any railroad officials that water was not wanted on the fire; thinks Mr. Strong did all in his power or the power of man to save the wounded victims of the terrible wreck.

CINCINNATI, January 5.—The *Commercial's* Fort Wayne special says: Mrs. Colonel Morton, of New York, formerly Miss Brule, of Fort Wayne, and but lately married, is supposed to be one of the Ashtabula victims. She left New York at that time to visit her relatives here, and has not been heard of since.

ASHTABULA, January 5.—Following are additional names of persons now known to have been lost in the wreck: Mary Austin, Omaha, Neb.; Ellen Austin, Omaha; Dr. A. Hopkins, Hartford Four Corners, Vermont; George H. Spooner, Petersham, Mass.; William Wilson, Boston, Mass.

CLEVELAND, January 5.—The body of Dr. G. F. Hubbard, of Polk, Iowa, was today identified at the Ashtabula freight house, where it has been lying since Saturday. A shawl strap and two shirts were found several days ago, which are known to belong to Dr. Hubbard. A brother came on to-day and fully identified the body.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Indications for To-Day.—Falling and stationary barometer, winds mostly from the northeast to southeast, and generally warmer, cloudy weather, and rain areas.

The Boston Board of Trade have petitioned the Government to remonetize silver.

The House Investigating Committee left Jacksonville, Florida, yesterday, for Washington.

The Toledo, Wabash and Western Railroad will hereafter be known as the Wabash Railway.

The Boston Board of Trade yesterday resolved that Congress be urged to extend the time in the charter of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

At a meeting of leading coal operators, held at Mauch Chunk yesterday, it was decided to resume operations on the 8th inst., at the old wages.

Commodore Vanderbilt's funeral is positively fixed for 10:30 on Sunday. One feature of the arrangements excludes flowers and pall-bearers. This is in compliance with his orders.

The Supreme Court of Massachusetts has sustained the lower court in its decision that the Israelites must be held amenable to the laws of the State regulating the observance of the Sabbath. The case grew out of an attempt to keep a store open on that day.

The fire in the Lykens Valley and Short Mountain mines is still raging. The damage is already estimated at $200,000. It is doubtful whether it can be fire be extinguished, work can be resumed before next summer. Nearly 3,000 men are employed in the several collieries in Lykens Valley, one thousand of whom worked in the burning mines.

Rail rates from Chicago to the East are gradually going up to the prices which prevailed before the Erie and New York Central war. No additional increase was made yesterday on through rates, but the general passenger agents advanced the rates to intermediate points from two to five dollars. The rate to Syracuse was made $17; Rochester, $15 40 and Buffalo $14. It is anticipated that passenger rates to New York will soon be advanced to $22.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Programme of the Democracy.

Tilden Must be Inaugurated or a New Election Held.

Fogy's Report on Louisiana Election

Four Thousand Pages of Manufactured Testimony.

EXAMINATION OF GROVER, OF OREGON

Improper Use of Money Can Be Proven

Senator Morton Preparing for Emergencies.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

Morton or Conkling to be Chosen.

Blaine Will Lead in Managing the Tactics of the Senate.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 5, 1877.

The Aim of the Democrats.

Senator Bayard, a member of the Senate committee on counting the electoral vote, expressed the opinion to a friend to-day that after the frequent deliberations of the committee he now felt great confidence in a successful issue to their labors. This opinion, however, is based upon no definite basis, though it is shared in by Republicans and Democrats alike in the committee. Whatever may be the action of the Senate committee, the views expressed by the members of the House committee do not promise so favorable a result. Their opinions, sifted down, may be said to reveal themselves into two propositions: The inauguration of Tilden or a new election. The first they propose to accomplish as a *dernier resorte*, by prolonging the consideration of the counting of the electoral votes of contested States.

The Bogy-Book.

Senator Bogy, on the part of the committee sent by Hewitt to observe the canvass of the vote by the Returning Board of Louisiana, has completed his report. It is a formidable paper, with accompanying documents making fully four thousand pages. The report declares Tilden elected on the face of the returns, and that the Returning Board exercised powers of revision not recognized by the State Constitution. It also denies that any intimidation was practiced. Affidavits and documents are several thousand affidavits in support of the last statement. One package contains nine hundred and fifty affidavits in printed form, to each of which was signed by the parties themselves, but evidently by a clerk, as all are in the same handwriting. Senator Bogy has taken frequent occasion to characterize the testimony presented by the Republicans as manufactured. The testimony furnished by this gentleman is about as glaring a case of manufactured testimony as has yet appeared.

Major Negley's Letter of Resignation.

The rules of the Postoffice Department forbid furnishing copies of papers on the files of the department, except at the request of officers employed in suits on postoffice business, on the order of courts. For this reason the letter of resignation of Mr. Negley, Postmaster at Pittsburgh, can not be given in form, but having been seen by your correspondent, the contents can be stated as follows: Mr. Negley resigned by letter, dated December 29, assigning as his reason that he was financially embarrassed, and unable to make good at once the defalcation of Wall, his money order clerk, amounting to $7,500. He tenders his resignation, to take effect upon the appointment of his successor.

The Examination of Governor Grover To-day afforded additional evidences of the weakness of Mr. Hoskin in regard to Watts' ineligibility. His action, according to his own statement, was prompted from New York, His answers were generally evasive, and it was very apparent that he was occupying a position in which his sense of justice was not in accord. Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, has given notice his intention to this question from its incipiency, and will give Grover an examination to-morrow. The members of the committee express full confidence in their ability to show the improper use of money in this case.

Preparing for the Emergency.

Senator Morton is busily engaged preparing himself for the emergency of an attempt by the Democrats to secure the exclusion of Louisiana, and possibly Florida, from the electoral count. In this case he will object to Mississippi, and has already, from a mass of documents, collected sufficient data to show conclusively that Mississippi was carried by means far more attrocious than were attempted or practiced in Louisiana.

Senator Blaine

Is studiously at work, preparing himself on the practices and precedents in the count of the electoral vote and the general questions at issue between the two political parties in Congress.

Renominations of Senators.

The renomination of Senators Ferry, the able and discreet presiding officer the Senate, Windom, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and the nomination of Blaine, the distinguished ex-Speaker of the House, for the long and long term, occasion universal satisfaction among Republicans. Men of experience, supported by ability, were never more needed in the counsels of the nation than now.

A New President of the Senate.

The subject of a new President of the Senate is again being agitated. The preeminent abilities shown by Mr. Ferry are admitted, but it will be necessary to choose a Senator whose term will not expire on March 4th, as there exists a possibility of a new election, in which event the presiding officer of the Senate will become acting President. This subject becomes one of unusual gravity. Of the positive wing Senator Morton is the choice, and of the conservatives Republicans Senator Conkling stands foremost. It is quite certain that one of these will fill the chair, but whether before or after the counting of the vote is not yet determined. Mr. Blaine will lead in managing the tactics of the Senate on the floor.

Northern Pacific.

The House Pacific Railroad Committee to day agreed to report a bill for the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad, with an amendment requiring the company to do within two years with the Secretary of the Interior a statement showing that a definite survey has been made.

Mr. Orton to be Tried First.

The opinion expressed by members of the Judiciary Committee in regard to the contumacious witnesses in the Western Union Telegraph case is, that Orton's case will be dealt with first, and this will govern action with regard to the others. The House is determined to carry out its tyrannical proceeding.

Coming Back With Drooping Feathers.

The Hoskin committee sent to Florida to look into elections will return here by Sunday. A dispatch received here from one of their members does not give an encouraging account of the success of their labors.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 5, 1877.

GROVER TELLS HIS STORY.

Governor Grover, of Oregon, was examined before the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections to-day. He stated he issued certificates of election to the three electors eligible; in so doing he acted in conformity with the Constitution and in accordance with the best authority he could procure. In answer to questions from Senator Morton, Governor Grover stated he received a letter from Judge Hoadly, of Cincinnati, in which four authorities relating to cases of the ineligibility of persons to office were cited. It was a three page letter, and was received at the Executive office about a week before the witness rendered his decision in the case of Watts.

The witness was unacquainted with Judge Hoadly and with his politics. He had no correspondence by letter with any person or persons in New York in regard to Watts' case. He received a telegram from ex-Senator Gwin, stating that certain prominent legal gentlemen thought Watts ineligible, and requested to know by what time the question had to be settled.

Abram S. Hewitt, of New York, sent witness a communication in which two decisions in Indiana, one in Maryland and one in Pennsylvania were cited as being applicable in Watts' case.

Menton Marble, of New York, telegraphed the witness, calling attention to the case of Watts, and witness answered that he had the case under consideration; witness had met Mr. Patrick once; he met him in the Executive office at Salem; Patrick was introduced to witness by Senator Kelly; witness knew nothing about Patrick, and looked upon his call at the Executive office as a compliment.

Augustus F. R. Martin, of the firm of Martin & Runyon, stock brokers, New York, testified that it appears from a stub in the firm's check book that a check was drawn by them on the Bank of North America, December 6, 1876, for $8,000, payable to Ladd & Bush, of Salem, Oregon; the stub was in the handwriting of G. H. Hughes, their bookkeeper; witness knew nothing about the check except from his partner and bookkeeper. The latter had told him that the check was returned the same day unused. Senator Kernan objected to any further questions being put to the witness regarding the check, as he had testified he had no personal knowledge concerning it, and as the other persons named could be summoned to appear. Senator Bissell then elicited from the witness that he was accompanied to Washington by Barton Harrison, of New York, to whom he was introduced yesterday by his partner, Mr. Runyon, who told him Harrison was going to Washington and would "give him advice and help him along with his business." They came over on the train together. The only advice given him by Harrison was to testify to nothing more than he knew, or in other words to give no hearsay testimony. He did not think he needed such advice. [Laughter.] He had no previous acquaintance with Harrison, and could not say what his [Harrison's] business or occupation was; was introduced to him in his [Harrison's] office in Pine street. Witness is a Republican, and his partner [Runyon] is a Democrat.

POSTOFFICE RESTORED AT GRENADA, MISS.

Three weeks ago it was decided to discontinue the postoffice at Granada, Miss., on account of bad treatment to the postmaster by persons in that neighborhood. Since then urgent appeals have been made for mails, accompanied by petitions that the safety of the postmaster should be secured, and it was to-day decided to reestablish the postoffice.

APPROPRIATION EXHAUSTED.

The appropriation for the transportation of United States notes and securities for the present fiscal year is exhausted, and unless a deficiency appropriation is immediately made, the Treasurer will not be able to pay the notes and securities of another, and the result will be the virtual suspension of payments by the Government in several localities.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR NORTHERN PACIFIC

The House Committee on Pacific Railroads to-day agreed to report the Senate bill to extend the time for the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad eight years from the present date, except one, providing that the company shall not be required to locate its route through Idaho before July 4, 1879.

A WEEKLY LIST OF UNITED STATES PATENTS

issued to the inventors of Pennsylvania and Ohio for the week ending January 3, 1877, and each patent will bear this date. Reported expressly for the COMMERCIAL by A. H. Evans & Co., Patent Solicitors, May Building, Washington, D. C. Charge for obtaining a patent $20. Copies of patent laws sent free on application:

PENNSYLVANIA.

Jabez H. Gill, Philadelphia—Cartridge weighers.

Harvey B. Chess, Pittsburgh—Nail assorter.

Jerome Hollows, Philadelphia—Apple corers.

B. H. Fisher, Allentown—Flasks for casting.

B. H. Fisher, Allentown—Removing cores from molds.

B. H. Fisher, Allentown—Molding pipes.

William H. Fisher, Philadelphia—Screw-Sash relishing machines.

Joseph Odell, Franklin—Heaters for oil wells.

Ed. C. Quin, Philadelphia—Inkstands.

Benjamin H. Richardson, Philadelphia—Umbrellas.

Coleman Sellers, Philadelphia—Relief valves for hydraulic machines.

A. O. Stevenson, Apollo—Harrows.

Isaac Wilkins, Pittsburgh—Metal punching machines.

Reissue—H. G. Morris, Philadelphia—Gas retorts and fastenings.

Trade Mark—P. C. Atwood, Philadelphia—Illuminating oils.

William Krause, Philadelphia—Artificial stone.

OHIO.

J. L. Fisher, Hannilton—Feather renovating machine.

J. W. Knowles, East Liverpool—Sagger pug machine.

H. H. Poe, Madison—Pails and cans.

Gottlieb Fritz, Cincinnati—Noodle machine.

Edward Huber, Marion—Road scraper.

Milton Meyer, Washington—H.-sheer fasteners.

T. C. Maris, Marietta—Harness breast collars.

Friend Murdoch, Centreton—Churns.

John H. Powers, Cincinnati—Cribs.

STATE LEGISLATURES.

The Arkansas Legislature meets on Monday, and members are already arriving at Little Rock.

Governor Hardin's message (the retiring Governor of Missouri) was sent to the Legislature yesterday. It is almost wholly devoted to State affairs.

The Illinois Republican Senatorial caucus last night nominated General John A. Logan by acclamation. General Logan, on being notified of his nomination, made an address thanking the Republicans for the honor they conferred on him.

In the Ohio Senate yesterday, a bill was introduced to repeal the law requiring the publication of legal advertisements in two papers of opposite politics in each county. In the House bills were introduced to compel persons suing out habeas corpus that they did not use money or liquor to secure their election; to provide that banks incorporated under Ohio laws shall not be taxed on United States bonds held by them.

Both Houses of the General Assembly met in joint convention this afternoon to witness the counting of the vote for Secretary of State at the October election. Lieutenant Governor Young, President of the Senate, opened the returns and announced the result, to wit: 317,856 votes were cast for Milton Barnes, 311,229 for William Bell, and 1,863 for E. S. Chapman. Barnes was declared duly elected.

The Republican Legislature of Louisiana passed a bill repealing the law limiting the supply of stationery to three dollars' worth for each member for the session, and passed a bill supplying each member with a copy of the Revised Statutes, also a protest against the closing of Bayou Lafourche. The Democratic Legislature adopted an address to the people of Louisiana, reviewing the recent canvass and election, the action of the Returning Board, the events of January 1st, barricade of the State House, etc., Governor Kellogg nominated Alfred Shaw for Judge of the new Superior Civil Court. Nicholls and Packard will be inaugurated on Monday by their respective followers. Each of the contestants will then proceed to organize a State government.

Governor Hendricks' message to the Indiana Legislature was delivered yesterday morning. It relates wholly to State affairs, with the exception of a reference to the presence of United States troops in South Carolina, saying: "The constitutional and independent authority of the State courts and Legislatures is endangered, if not now supported by a patriotic and liberty-loving sentiment so strong among the people, that party and partisans dare not defy it. During the four years of my administration, our State has not been wholly free from domestic troubles; the peace on more than one occasion has been threatened. Strong bodies of armed men, moved by some real or supposed wrongs, have threatened to assert and vindicate their rights wholly independent of the remedies and proceedings provided by law. In no instance has the authority and power of the United States been evoked against them, but in every instance have the people preserved the public peace, and maintained the authority of the State and the supremacy of the law. A people so careful of their own institutions, and so capable of preserving them and of maintaining the constitutional rights and supremacy of their own State government, cannot be indifferent when other States are threatened with the overthrow or the destruction of the rights and privileges, without which no free State can exist."

The Funeral of Commodore Vanderbilt.

NEW YORK, January 5.—Commodore Vanderbilt's body will lie in state for an hour on Sunday morning, in the main hallway of his house. A large number of the New York Central Railroad employees will view the remains and escort them to church. Thurlow Weed, August Schell, Peter Cooper, William Turnbull and other friends are expected, but the general public will not see the body. The immediate family will meet at the house and will follow the remains, which will be carried on a bier to the church on foot. The immediate relatives, the personal friends and employees of the New York Centres, Hudson River Railroad will be quite numerous enough to fill the edifice. Rev. Dr. Deems and Rev. Dr. Hutton will perform the burial services, and Dr. Deems will make an address. There will be no pall-bearers or floral display, and the cortege will start for Staten Island *via* the Battery at the conclusion of the services. One hundred carriages have been ordered by the family for the friends. A *post mortem* examination will be held to-morrow.

Lieutenant Dyer, of the Twenty-third Infantry, passed through St. Louis on Thursday with thirty men from Fort Leavenworth, *en route* to Hot Springs, Arkansas. It is not known for what purpose these soldiers are sent to Hot Springs, but the movement is supposed to have some connection with the Government property at that point.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

In a quarrel at Shenandoah, Pa., on Thursday night, Oscar McCara killed Joseph Bokanty.

The boiler of the portable saw mill owned by Natt & Co., exploded near Marietta, Ohio, yesterday, severely injuring four workmen, one of whom will probably die.

The Toledo express north on the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad was thrown from the track and the cars badly wrecked near Hamilton, yesterday. No one hurt.

An illicit still of about fifty barrels capacity was discovered by detectives yesterday on Carrol street, near Wood, Chicago, and its proprietors, John D. Freeze, H. A. Allen and C. M. Jennings, committed in default of bail.

Minnie Lonsdale, the actress, who was so terribly burned in Newark, N. J., last Wednesday evening, through her clothing catching fire accidentally in her dressing-room, died on Thursday evening at St. Michael's Hospital. Miss Lonsdale's real name was Mary Reagan.

It was pretty definitely ascertained yesterday that the death of Charles Brelfeld, the St. Louis policeman, who was supposed to have been killed and his body placed on the railroad track, was purely accidental, and it is known that he was not intoxicated, as previously suspected, he being strictly temperate.

Elwin Willis Major, convicted in December, 1875, at Nashua, N. H., of poisoning his wife, was hanged at the State prison in Concord, yesterday morning. Major spent the night in religious devotions. At the scaffold he reiterated his declaration of innocence. Before the drop was sprung he fell upon his knees, utterly broken down. He died without a struggle.

W. J. Sandford, City Clerk of Covington, Ky., is charged with forgery by Mr. Shinkle, President of the City Council, and in a meeting of that body Mr. Sandford was relieved of his duties. Mr. Sandford claims that several city orders had been "raised" by Sanford, and the latter's books had been made to agree with the amounts taken. A warrant was sworn out yesterday by Shinkle for Sandford's arrest, but he could not be found. The amount of the forgeries is not yet known. The Covington Council last night suspended him from office.

Michael Mulroy, a quarryman, on Thursday entered the house of John Kallor, on Mott avenue and One Hundred and Forty-ninth street, New York, with a number of cartridges of giant powder, which had been frozen together, and without drawing them from the stove, Mulroy sat down holding the cartridges close to it, and conversing with the inmates. Suddenly six two-pound cartridges exploded, completely demolishing the rear of the building. George Kallor, four years old, was instantly killed, and Mrs. Kallor and infant were very seriously injured. Mulroy was badly burned about the body.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

JANET ET SES AMIS. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

We regret that this charming juvenile for children in the French language was not received in time for notice before the holidays, as it is a suitable gift in some respects, though it may be found useful at any time. It gives a series of French lessons, covering from the alphabet to the reader, and most admirably illustrated. It is rather a novel experiment, and is the work of Mrs. S. W. Hoyt, a daughter of Chief Justice Chase. The design presents the French language in a tempting form for children to learn. The pictures are a very fine class of wood engravings and might be regarded rather quaint, at least some of the French characters. The book is nicely bound, gilt edge and square in form.

SEA SHORE AND PRAIRIE. By Mary P. Thatcher. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

There is a fragrance in these sketches, which makes them interesting at any season of the year, and the fair author seems to be in the succession of gifted minds, she being a neice of the poet Longfellow. We have pictured the scenes of Old York in Maine, then Newport, with bits of prairie life. The reader will be loth to lay aside the book until all the sketches are devoured.

YOUNG FOLKS' READINGS FOR SOCIAL AND PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT. By Lewis B. Monroe. For the Lady Speaker. By George M. Baker. Published by Lee & Shepard, Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co. and S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

"Young Folks' Readings" contains one hundred and fifty selections of a choice character, prepared for publication by one who is recognized as having rare qualifications for the work. The object, to furnish material for very young persons, has been happily carried out by the author, who has shown taste and discrimination. "The Handy Speaker," in lesser form, we have already noticed. The book contains eight dramas, five of which have not been published before, namely: "The Flower of the Family," comedy; "Above the Clouds," drama; "One Hundred Years Ago," drama; "The Little Brown Jug," drama, and "A Mysterious Disappearance," "Shall Our Mothers Vote," "Paddle Your Own Canoe," and "Seeing the Elephant," farces.

THE SONS OF GODWIN. By William Leighton. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

This is a kind of historical drama, in blank verse, in which the author gives evidence of a high poetic faculty, especially of a dramatic type, and as such it should be so regarded. The following passage from King Harold indicates much talent:

"Life—a short day—an interval between
Nothing and darkness—flitting consciousness,
Vivid and startling as the lightning's flash;
And like that blinding glare beholding all.
But in an instant gone beyond recall.
Death—a grim phantom ever haunting Life—
The Night that follows Day—a frightful pause—
The black reverse of Glory's shining shield—
Life's opposite, whose emblem is the grave.
Life, Death—the two conditions of one thing,
Whose margins meet; which is the normal state?
Which real and which shadow?—which is health?
And which disease? To-day we have the one,
To-morrow the other—a slave's spear.
A random arrow, some disastrous chance,
And on this day of life a black eclipse.
To him who dies it is as if the world.
This solid, steadfast earth, on which is writ
Forever in its sunshine, at a touch
Melted again in chaos. And what then?"

THE DEVELOPMENT HYPOTHESIS: Is it Sufficient? By James McCosh, D. D., LL. D., President of Princton College. Published by Robert Carter & Brothers, New York. For sale by W. Waters, Pittsburgh.

These papers by Dr. McCosh, one containing arguments for and against the development hypothesis, which appeared in "Wood's Bible Annals" in 1874; another entitled "Is the Development Hypothesis Sufficient?" and a third called, "View of our World given by Combined Science and Religion," read by the author at the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance in New York in 1873, with a fourth paper on "Geology and Scripture," are combined in a little book with flexible covers, and issued under the title "The Development Hypothesis; Is it Sufficient?" His argument is clear and convincing and the very opposite to vagueness or obscurity and wholly from a strictly scientific point of view.

SHIFTING FOR HIMSELF. By Horatio Alger, Jr. Published by Loring, Boston. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., city.

A story of unusual interest, especially for boys. It portrays the mishaps of a boy well educated and well trained, who was about entering Yale College, but was summoned home by his guardian and told that hereafter he must paddle his own canoe. which he did successfully. It belongs to the third volume of the "Brave and Bold" series.

SHORT STORIES by A. L. O. E. Published by Robert Carter & Brothers, New York. For sale by W. W. Waters, Pittsburgh.

Any book bearing the initials of A. L. O. E. may be safely taken into every family of children. These three little volumes contain a number of pithy stories, and are just the kind for the "little folk." They are healthful and pure in sentiment, and not written to please the intellect and slight the moral affections of a child's nature. They are sold at a low price.

NEW WATER WORKS.

Meeting of the Extension Committee—Report of Mechanical Engineer Lowry—The Work of the Past Year.

The Water Extension Committee of 1876 held a final meeting yesterday afternoon. Dr. McCandless was in the chair.

The pay roll for December, amounting to 11,374 34 was approved.

A proposition from Frank W. Seeley to pay ten cents per ton for the ice from Hiland reservoir, the contract to run for ten years was entertained. After some discussion the committee decided to award such a contract for a period of five years, with power to rescind at any time.

A DEMAND FOR PAPERS

Mr. Hughes offered a preamble and resolution setting forth that during the Legislative investigation into the affairs of the city, Mr. Joseph M. Carson, chairman, secured estimates No. 21 and 21½ of the Hiland avenue reservoir; that although repeated application has been made for the papers he has neglected to return them and instructing the City Attorney to notify Mr. Car

The Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1877.

CRONIN'S intellectual crust is quite thin, and upon being cracked by Senator MORTON, disclosed nothing but a hollow sphere.

ON THE 8th instant, Saint JACKSON'S Day, nearly every Democratic leader in the North will take liberal advantage of that provision of the unwritten law which permits any one who is so disposed to make a fool of himself.

THE total value of the foreign commerce of Boston, last year, was: exports $44,502,917, a gain of $10,696,566 as compared with 1875, while the imports were $35,097,285, a decrease of $11,890,776 as compared with 1875.

IT is of infinite consequence to the success of free government that the one fairly and honestly elected shall be inaugurated, and not the one who has not been elected. —*Courier-Journal.*

Exactly. And RUTHERFORD B. HAYES having received a majority of the electoral votes of the several States is "fairly and honestly elected," and will be inaugurated accordingly.

THAT somebody should be held responsible for such horrors as those of the Ashtabula disaster is an opinion so strongly felt in Congress that legislation upon the subject is already broached, in the shape of the passage of a resolution directing an inquiry into the constitutionality of a law creating a Board of National Managers, to supervise inter-State railways with respect to the safety of travel.

THE tone of the messages of the Democratic Governors of New York, Connecticut and North Carolina, with reference to the disputed Presidency, show that each of them occupies precisely the ground which was previously marked out for him by TILDEN and several prominent Democratic Senators and Representatives, who were some time ago consulted with reference to the attitude which it was deemed expedient for them to assume at such a crisis. The man is becoming mad.

NEXT Monday the part of *Nick Bottom*, which SHAKESPEARE seems to have written for the express benefit of Democratic politicians, that they might see the way in which roaring can be conducted without frightened the ladies, will be performed throughout the country by Bourbon amateurs. It will begin in this wise:

"You, ladies, you whose gentle hearts do fear
The smallest monstrous mouse that creeps on floor,
May now, perchance, both quake and tremble here,
When lion rough in wildest rage doth roar.
Then know that I, one Snug, the Joiner, am
A lion free."

A RESOLUTION is pending before the Ohio Legislature to investigate the causes of the recent railroad disaster on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, near Ashtabula, in that State. It is owing to the universal public demand that the most searching investigation should be made, to the end that the risk of railway travel should be reduced to its minimum. The officials of the railroads of the country should not cease their efforts until they have brought the science of railway transit to absolute safety, as far as it can be effected by human agency.

THE statistics of the imports of this country from the United Kingdom, including Canada and other outlying English colonies, for the eleven months of 1876 ended with November 30, show, thanks to a judicious tariff system, a very great falling off in every important item, except wool, as compared with the corresponding period of 1875. The comparison is as follows:

Articles.	1875.	1876.
Apparel and slops, £	91,963	70,029
Cotton piece goods, yds	26,850,460	52,387,400
Earthen and china ware, £	574,082	512,519
Haberdashery, £	499,761	475,786
Hardware and cutlery, £	737,285	727,270
Iron—Pig, tons	45,188	35,209
Linen piece goods, yds	88,945,100	68,980,000
Machinery, £	166,000	203,058
Wool, lbs	512,500	2,014,330
Woolen cloths, etc., yds	1,347,500	1,434,400
Worsted stuffs, yds	40,338,300	30,685,200
Carpets, yds	2,979,800	942,030

THE Boston *Advertiser* notes the fact that reductions in municipal debt in Massachusetts for the last year were not general or great enough for congratulation. Boston shows a reduction of over $376,000, and Springfield has reduced its debt $115,000—a very creditable record. About half the cities have increased their debts and about half have reduced them, and the one amount about offsets the other. The experience of Massachusetts, in this respect, is better, we judge, than that of Pennsylvania. None of our cities, that we know of, can show a reduction in their debts; and if the increase has been slight, in most instances, the fact is plain that we have not yet reached the turning point. There is a general depreciation of debt, and any quantity of talk about economy; but the practical business of paying off burdensome debts has not yet been begun.

GOVERNOR HARTRANFT states, in his message, that notice has been given by the Sinking Fund Commissioners from time to time, as the loans of the Commonwealth became payable, that if not presented within ninety days the interest thereon would cease. Of these overdue loans there are still outstanding $85,921 58, which will be paid at the Treasury, without interest, whenever presented. That so large a sum as this, of overdue debt, should remain out in the hands of holders, who prefer holding it, without interest, to presenting it for payment, is a very singular fact, and it indicates that the holders regard the overdue and non-interest bearing bonds of the State as more serviceable to them than the money they represent. It is not probable that any considerable portion of these bonds has been lost or destroyed. The owners, in such cases, generally make application for reimbursement when such losses occur.

THE confession of CRONIN that he received three thousand dollars for his agency in the nasty trick of smuggling himself in as an elector in Oregon, and that the money was paid in drafts upon Mr. TILDEN'S bankers in New York, brings home a very disreputable fact to the Democratic candidate for the Presidency. His protestations of "reform," and his arrogation to himself of a personal purity above suspicion, have both been nullified by this development. The Oregon trick, there is now good reason to believe, originated with Mr. TILDEN himself; and the disbursement of three thousand dollars to the corrupt instrument through whom it was carried out, proves Mr. TILDEN to be as willing to use corrupt means as CRONIN was willing to accept them. When a candidate for the Presidency gets down to the vile business of buying an electoral vote, we may well despair of the possibility of preserving the purity of our Government if committed to Democratic hands.

THE outlook for the shoe and leather trade during the current year is unusually encouraging. In Massachusetts, last year, this industry was larger than ever before in the history of the trade, the shipments from Boston exceeding those for 1875 by over 70,000 cases, and those of 1874 by 130,000 cases. The total reported shipments for 1876 are 1,521,205 cases. The *Reporter* explains that, although these reports are carefully made, from daily examinations of the freight books of the railway and express companies, and the manifests of vessels, they do not represent the full amount of business done. The state of the trade in Massachusetts, that paper claims, is only a fair reflex of that of the whole country, so that, taking all things together, the entire boot and shoe trade of the country last year was much larger than that of any former year, while the goods manufactured have, in a greater degree than usual, gone directly to consumers, few being held as accumulations in the hands of distributors, since never before have the demands from retailers been more urgent and constant for the filling of orders. The inspiring effects of a foreign demand have also been felt both in leather and shoes, especially leather. A growing demand has sprung up in a new and entirely unexpected quarter, the continent of Europe, which gives good promise of a large field for disposing of the products of this great industry.

THE New York *Bulletin* considers that the most important conditions to a revival of business already exist. The reasons it assigns embrace several facts. The process of weeding out the insolvent firms has been well nigh completed; since, although the failures of the first nine months of 1876 were unprecedented in number and amount, yet during the last quarter there was a marked abatement, and it is very generally taken for granted that, in the nature of the case, this declension will be continued, while the clearing out of a large number of firms who, for the most part, have been competing for business in an illegitimate way, leaves the better chance for those who remain. Then, too, we have had generally good crops during the past year, while the prices of merchandise, or at least of those articles which constitute the bulk of our commerce, after a protracted and very severe decline also appear to have touched bottom. The fall in wages, too, seems to have reached the lowest point of depression, since for some months past there have been no reductions of this kind. The importance of this fact is that a basis has been reached upon which commodities can be produced cheaply enough to meet the diminished purchasing ability of the community, which is one of the first conditions precedent to a revival of productive operations. Stocks of merchandise, moreover, are generally in a very low condition. In all the households and wardrobes of the country there is a comparative exhaustion of accumulated supplies. In our productive establishments, factories, workshops, etc., there have been three years of postponement of renovations and replacements of machines, tools and instruments; and on all our railroads also the old appliances have been used, as far as possible, in lieu of introducing new ones. This process of using the old instead of procuring the new cannot, the *Bulletin* maintains, well be carried much farther. There comes a point at which necessity compels replacement; that point is being reached; and, once its demands begin to be responded to, a very important stimulus to all kinds of industry must result.

THE New York Democrats show their natural proclivities in sending DAVID DUDLEY FIELD to Congress. This man once stood well as a lawyer and as a public man; but when he lent his great legal influence to JIM FISK and the Erie ring of railroad robbers, and when, afterwards, he descended even from that low level to become the attorney of TWEED and the gang of Tammany thieves associated with that prince of perloiners, he lost all claim to confidence and respect. It is said that TILDEN and his advisers think FIELD will have great influence in the House in settling the Presidential question; but as he is now known to be as mercenary and corrupt as his villainous clients, his influence in that or any other body must be of the most limited kind. A man who is not troubled with the impediment called a conscience may do very well to defend TWEED and find legal quibbles for the benefit of FISK; but the country is not yet demoralized to the point of accepting the willing defender of known thieves as either in adviser or manager.

The selection of such an instrument is an evidence of the natural inclination of the Democratic managers to side with corrupt and bad men. It is notorious that TWEED was elected to the New York Senate, by his party, in the very teeth of the developments which showed him to be a public robber. He never dared to take his seat, but the Democracy dared to elect him, and it now falls backs upon his attorney as his fitting substitute. There never was a man mean enough or dishonest enough to forfeit the confidence of the Democratic party; and it finds as fitting an embodiment in FIELD as it has heretofore found in TWEED, MORRISSEY, FISK, CONNELLY and SWEENEY.

WE LEARN from the Eastern papers that the dishonest management of some of the life insurance companies in New York has had a marked effect in reducing the business done by the honest companies. The new business has dwindled to almost nothing under the panic following the late failures, but the demand for cash on surrendered policies has become greater than it ever was. The consequence is that the honest companies find themselves under the fire of a demand they had not anticipated.

The rivalry between the numerous life insurance companies, and the anxiety of agents to get new customers, have led, beyond doubt, to the placing of many bad risks, and to an unhealthy condition in the weaker companies. The whole business has been overdone, and it will not get into a healthy condition until the weak and diseased companies are thoroughly weeded out, and until the sound companies get to doing business in a less ostentatious manner.

GOVERNOR HARTRANFT states, in his message, that notice has been given by the Sinking Fund Commissioners from time to time, as the loans of the Commonwealth became payable, that if not presented within ninety days the interest thereon would cease. Of these overdue loans there are still outstanding $85,921 58, which will be paid at the Treasury, without interest, whenever presented. That so large a sum as this, of overdue debt, should remain out in the hands of holders, who prefer holding it, without interest, to presenting it for payment, is a very singular fact, and it indicates that the holders regard the overdue and non-interest bearing bonds of the State as more serviceable to them than the money they represent. It is not probable that any considerable portion of these bonds has been lost or destroyed. The owners, in such cases, generally make application for reimbursement when such losses occur.

Palatial buildings for offices and luxuriously fitted up business rooms are not, as many suppose, unquestionable evidences of solvency and thrift. Extravagance in management and an expensive machinery in securing business are not passports to public favor. There are, we are satisfied, many strong and trusty companies among those which have survived the depression in business; but they will all do well to keep a keen look out ahead, and above all to avoid all attempts at swagger and show in carrying on their operations. The present stagnation in life insurance will pass away; but when it does, those companies which have deserved most will come in for the largest share of the renewals of confidence.

THE Brooklyn *Times* is right in deprecating the foolish scheme to settle the Presidential squabble by another election. It would impose upon the country another heated partisan campaign, when the country can ill afford it, as it could not fail to keep all our business interests in a most trying suspense for months to come. There are hundreds of business men who would be ruined by such a prolongation of the uncertainty that now weighs down and destroys public confidence. The business interests of the country detest the idea of a new election, and will protest against it. New York city, Democratic as it is, would far rather take HAYES than a new election and the prolongation of this miserable excitement and uncertainty, but the money-changers of our country do not control it. In 1861 they would have licked the boots of the rebel South for the sake of peace, but events were too big for them. Already, the electoral contest has gone too far to be settled by the selfishness of a few millionaires in New York. Wherever, HAYES has been honestly elected, and ought to be peaceably and properly inaugurated.

THERE is no doubt that DAVID DUDLEY FIELD has been sent to Congress to help TILDEN out of his dilemma. His moral standing, however, is so bad that he will have precious little influence with the better element of the party. People generally, knowing how much money he has raked out of thieves like TWEED, believe that he is now in the pay of TILDEN on the National Democratic Committee, that he gave up a lucrative practice and has gone to Congress *for pay*. His arguments in the House will have little weight, for the simple reason that he will be regarded as TILDEN'S lawyer.

A violin, just bought by a Russian for 10,000 francs, has a very singular and interesting history. It was sold by the celebrated Stainer to Comte de Trautmannsdorf, grand ecuyer to the Emperor Charles VI. of Austria, with the following conditions: Count Trautmannsdorf paid sixty-six carolus d'or (about $250), and engaged to furnish a good dinner to Stainer as long as he lived, 100 florins the first of each month, a complete outfit, with gold galloons, once a year, two barrels of beer, his lodgings, fire, lights and, in case that he married, as many hares as he required for his table, and two baskets of fruit for himself and two for his old nurse annually; and during sixteen years, that is as long as he lived, Stainer enjoyed all these advantages. If this violin be worth as much as it has cost, it must indeed be a very precious instrument.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

—Ashes on the sidewalk save dashes in street talk.

Sprained ankles are in season just now.

The value of real estate in Massachusetts fell off last year $48,000,000.

New York city erected 1,128 buildings last year, against 1,127 in 1875.

The total coinage at the different mints for the month of December was $7,732,005.

The artificial propagation of fish in the Maine rivers has produced exceedingly encouraging results.

A want of foresight deprives the citizens of New Orleans of the enjoyment of sleighing; they have no sleighs.

Three thousand-dollar Cronin gauged his expenses from Oregon to Washington by the amount it takes to keep that nose colored.

The proposed copartnership of U. S. Grant, Jr., with the well known legal firm of Cole & Kingsford, of New York, has been abandoned.

A posthumous addendum to Professor Agassiz's contributions to the natural history of the United States will soon be printed, illustrating the North American star fishes.

Paris is suffering under a terrible epidemic of typhus fever. Not only among the soldiers is it raging to a terrible extent, but also in the colleges, hospitals and manufactories.

Public funerals of persons dying of scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles or whooping cough are out of place. They are dangerous to the lives of such as may attend who have not had the disease.

Democratic retrogression. The Alabama school fund for 1876 amounted to only $351,496, as against $565,042 the previous year. The school attendance was 104,414, as against 118,252 for the previous year.

Whether by rail or water, this winter seems to be registering an awful story of suffering and death. Ashtabula, with its horrors, and the wrecks at sea on our own and foreign coasts, will not soon be forgotten.

People must be careful of their tongues at English elections. The other day a solicitor's clerk was imprisoned and assessed the cost of his conviction for having told a candidate that a certain elector had not voted.

The narrow gauge railroad in the Centennial ground carried 3,018,892 passengers during the Centennial, without accident. Its gross earnings were $187,295 28, which was enormous traffic for a temporary road.

The indications are that the English railways are slowly drifting on to a crisis like that which has overtaken American roads, when they will be compelled at the same time to improve their service and reduce the cost.

This is a year of election contests. They have a dispute in Arizona as to who has been returned Delegate to Congress from that Territory. The race was between three candidates, two of whom—Stevens and Hardy—are the disputants.

The name "Huron," which is proposed for the new Territory of Pembina, is objected to because of its inappropriateness. The Hurons never had any connection with this tract of land, and the name smacks of the Dominion of Canada.

The Ohio river is frozen so hard at Cincinnati that it is used very largely by foot passengers between that city and Kentucky. Midway between the banks an enterprising liquor dealer has erected a booth and sells his goods to all comers.

Last month was distinguished by one feature which will make it long remembered by the agriculturists of California as one in which no rain fell, a fact not before recorded in the history of the State since it was settled by Americans.

The New York State prisons are in a terrible financial slough. Last year's deficiency was over $700,000, nearly twice that of 1867, and $160,000 over that of 1875. The increase of losses for the past few years far exceeds the increase in the number of convicts.

The latest invention is a sliding clamp on the arms of the upper berths of sleeping cars to prevent closing in case of an accident and crushing and smothering the occupants, as sometimes happens. When the berth is opened the clamp is moved over the hinges, rendering it impossible to work the joint.

To devise a letter stamp that cannot be safely washed is a problem that the Post-office Department has been studying some time. It has been finally decided to change the color of the ordinary three cent stamp from green to red, as the latter color is more easily blurred and rendered impossible of restoration.

The work of printing national bank notes is to be transferred at once from the New York bank note companies to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at the Treasury Department. This is in order to relieve in part the distress lately occasioned by the discharge of some four hundred persons from the bureau.

Last year more than a thousand persons in this country died from violence, an excess of more than a hundred over the similar record of 1875. A peculiar feature of this exhibit is that the increase is due to accidental causes; the increase of deaths from sunstrokes and drowning more than accounting for the total excess over last year's casualties.

There is comparative safety in the Black Hills region now. The Indian incursions of the past are no longer to be apprehended, at least not to the alarming extent of former years, before their hostility was appeased, or the troops offered their protection. These are points gained, and yet the rigor of the climate offers but poor inducement for a permanent residence.

Fifty million dollars will be paid out this month in dividends. This includes the interest paid by States and the National Government, and the dividends of banks and insurance companies in New York city only. As the United States will pay $26,996,351 and railroads $17,418,843, the estimate of $50,000,000 leaves a large margin of local interest and industrial dividends unstated.

When certain New York jobbers advocated the removal of a portion of the printing of United States notes to New York from the Treasury Department, it was argued that this change was made in the interest of economy. This is now made very doubtful, the Adams Express Company having petitioned Congress for additional compensation of $40,000 for the transportation of the notes entrusted to it, when $25,000 was the entire sum asked and given for the fiscal year.

PERSONAL.

Herr L. Abenheim has been attempting to translate the wit and wisdom of Oliver Wendell Holmes into Dutch. Among his troubles was the lack of an equivalent for "one-hoss."

The new English clergyman at the Brick Church, New York, Rev. Mr. Bevan, seems to be something of a snob. He doesn't like interruptions. Last Sunday a lady occupying a conspicuous seat in the gallery was forced to cough several times. Mr. Bevan finally turned and requested her to leave the church, saying her cough annoyed him. She left as quietly as possible, but not without being the center of universal attraction.

Concord, N. H., boasts of a clergyman's wife who is exceedingly smart, as attested by her record for the year, as follows: Gentlemen entertained, 53; guests at tea, 69; at breakfast, 38; at dinner, 47; lodged, 39; number of calls made, 484; received, 965; letters received, 494; written, 610; covering 1,387½ pages. She has also read 90 books, and written 116 newspaper articles. This is in addition to doing her own sewing, attending to her marketing and parish matters, keeping only one servant.

Among the inmates of the St. Louis soup-house is a young man who is a graduate of Harvard College, and who is well connected in the East. He has been unfortunate in his business efforts, and is too proud to write for assistance, which would be promptly responded to if his condition were known. He goes out each day and does odd jobs, does not drink at all, and manages to save a few cents each day, which he deposites with a friend for safe keeping. When he saves a sufficient amount to pay his fare he will return to his friends. He is a very intelligent young man, and bears documents in proof of his college experience.

Those Free Dinners.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

In relation to Mrs. Jane G. Swisshelm's sprightly article, "The Murphy Movement," printed in your issue of Thursday morning, permit me a few words in reply.

Your correspondent has startled the public with the information (implied rather than plainly stated), that the ladies assisting Mr. Francis Murphy in his temperance work have instituted a series of free meals at the Fifth avenue church, at which place "tramps" are "coddled and fed" at the city's expense. To disabuse her mind, and the minds of your readers, of a wrong impression in this matter, allow me to say that only *two dinners* have been given to said "tramps"—one on Christmas and another on New Year's day; that the intention of setting up a meal for them was not advertised long enough beforehand for them to swarm and settle in the grasshopper fashion which she represents; and that these men who are rated nothing better than society scavengers, are, nine out of ten, willing and anxious to work if employment could be afforded.

As to being "bribed" to sign the pledge, no such measure has been consciously adopted. All who asked on those days for a meal, had it in good will, as the Christmas time prompted. Possibly a few may have taken the pledge for the "loaves and fishes," just as they once came for these to our dear Lord's preaching; possibly, too, these remained in a better mood when unpinched by hunger, to gather up their lost manhood, to hear the word of life, and to find a new ambition born in their souls from human sympathy. Possibly—and we might say undoubtedly—many went away better than they came, in a condition to vex the public no more. Has your correspondent attended these meetings from day to day, with close observance of the methods employed and their results? Has she heard the repeated requests made by these men for "work—*anything* which will earn me bread?" Has she known of the wretchedness in the homes these ladies have sought out, "because father is out of a job?" Does she credit the story that a father refused to eat the Christmas dinner furnished him at the church on Christmas, and carried it home to his hungry little ones? Will she not bear with the poor fellows who have confessed the sins which made them poor and have set nobly to work, as fast as openings were made for them, to show their repentance good? These things need to be known and carefully studied before one can make a just estimate of the "Murphy movement," which we prefer rather to call God's.

True, the typical "tramp" is a public nuisance; but not every poor fellow out of work and away from home is a tramp; and if it *were* the case, Christianity would urge to a last effort to save even the tramp's soul. Many of these hungry fellows have shown more hungry souls, dying out of all good intentions in life because left alone with a hard lot that took the bread from their mouths and the sweetness from their characters. To "go down their throats to save them" seemed to be the last hope; and with many the hope has blossomed into the fruition of a better life.

And the "whipping post"—they do not need it. Every business man in our cities can testify to the numberless requests made every week for work. The men who were provided with two "square meals," are, many of them, the victims of the financial panics and commercial depressions throughout the country, and are not so much to blame. Sin followed discouragement. They cannot now be expected to manufacture positions or circumstances!

How glad we should all be, Mr. Editor, if you, your correspondent should succeed in persuading our city officials to adopt the excellent plan she suggests—that of having Mr. Murphy's "boys" clean the streets at "fifty cents per day." That would be honest work for them.

Some have requested to do that very thing. We assure you hundreds of them would be thankful to do it even at that poor price.

Then about "patching" those clothes offensive with "creeping things," &c., &c.; your correspondent labors under a mistake. The ladies mend only clean, second-hand clothing, donated for those in need, and so avoid the extreme unpleasantness of handling filthy garments. Of course, much work is bad, and many things connected with this work necessarily call for self-sacrifice; sensitive natures must recoil, sometimes; but these are all our brothers fallen out by the way, and loved yet by our Savior. For His sake, who redeemed even these, one could bear much. In the tenderness of Christ these Christians seek to give them the sympathetic help that may aid them to assume their manhood once more. Mr. Murphy urges constant employment as one of the first rules of success. The city will lose nothing by this movement, even the free dinners. Results of good begin to appear on all sides already. What little may be taken up by the few new "cramps" that may have been attracted here, is more than replaced in the money saved from drink and turned into industrial channels.

ANNIE R. JOHNSON.

The New Volume of the Living Age.

The number of the *Living Age* for the week ending January 6th begins a new volume and a new year of this standard periodical. In this volume George MacDonald's able serial, "The Marquis of Lossie," will be continued from advance sheets; a short and charming story translated for the *Living Age* from the French of Emile Souvestre, and a sketch by Ivan Turgenieff, will be given in early numbers, and during the new year choice fiction is expected to appear from the pens of Miss Muloch, Katharine S. Macquoid (author of "Patty"), William Black (author of "The Princess of Thule"), Anthony Trollope, and other leading novelists of Great Britain. In science, politics, theology and general literature, the very important contributions to current literature by the ablest writers of Europe, and especially of Great Britain, will continue to be presented in the *Living Age* with a satisfactory completeness elsewhere unattempted.

The beginning of a volume is an excellent time for the beginning of a subscription, and the publishers still present to new subscribers for 1877 the six numbers of 1876, containing the first instalments of MacDonald's "Marquis of Lossie." To every one who would keep abreast of the best thought of the time, the periodical is in fact almost a necessity. With fifty-two numbers of sixty-four large pages each (or more than 3,000 pages a year) the subscription price ($8) is low, while for $10 50 the publishers offer to send any one of the American $4 monthlies or weeklies with the *Living Age* for a year, both postpaid. Littell & Gay, Boston, are the publishers.

S. M. Pettengill & Co.,
Advertising Agents,
37 Park Row, New York,
Desire to Call the Attention of Business Men, who wish to reach the Reading Public, to the following
FACTS:
1. They have been in the Advertising business for nearly thirty years, and give it constant attention and study during that time.
2. They have had, and continue to have, cordial business relations with all the newspapers and other periodicals in the United States and Canada.
3. Their record with all these publications is one of fair treatment, honorable dealing and prompt settlements.
4. In consequence of this, they can always have advertisements inserted at the publisher's *lowest rates*.
5. They are so acquainted with the entire press of the country that they can select the *best mediums* for any given purpose.
6. Having done advertising for all kinds of business, and noted the results to their customers, they unqvive valuable suggestions as to the *size, style and position* which will make the most effective advertisement for the object to be attained.
7. Having frequent orders for a large number of papers, they can, in most cases, get the work done for *less cost* than the advertiser would have to pay if he sent the order direct.
8. They examine all papers, note all omissions or irregularities, secure the strict fulfillment of every stipulation of the order, and submit full files for the inspection of the advertiser.
9. They give the advertiser the full benefit of the facilities and of their supervision *without charge*, a commissions being paid by the publishers.
10. They submit estimates for any given list of papers, or for properly covering any given district.
11. For a systematic working up of any large enterprise, they assist in the preparation of circulars, pamphlets and general reading matter, in addition to newspaper advertising.
They invite a call from any parties who contemplate advertising in any way or for any amount.
S. M. PETTENGILL & CO.,
37 Park Row, New York.
701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
10 State Street, Boston.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CO.,
43 South Diamond St., Allegheny City.
W. W MARTIN.....President.
JAM TEVENSON.....Secreta y

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,
No. 61 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh.
CHARTERED IN 1862.
BOARD OF MANAGERS.—George A. Berry, President; John Scott, Jas. Park, Jr., Vice Presidents. A. Bradley, J. L. Graham, A. S. Bell, Wm. K. Nimick, John S. Dilworth, F. Bahm, G. Follansbee, Robert C. Schmertz, Chas. G. Milnor, Secretary and Treasurer, SOLICITOR—John H. Bailey.

DRY GOODS.
1877. 1877.
JANUARY.
Greatly Reduced
PRICES.
MEDIUM AND FINE
Dress Goods!
Ladies' Cloth Cloaks!
LATEST DESIGNS.
CHOICE ASSORTMENT
FineFurs!
Extra Good Bargains will be offered in all the above Goods.
James Caldwell & Co.,
No. 115 and 117
FEDERAL ST.,
ALLEGHENY.

BANK STATEMENTS.

ANNUAL STATEMENT
OF THE
GERMANIA SAVINGS BANK,
JANUARY 1, 1877.

ASSETS.

First Bond and Mortgages	$326,549 36
Bills receivable	24 031 24
Real Estate and Bank Building	105 915 00
Other Real Estate	34 886 80
United States Bonds	50 000 00
Bank Stocks	5 990 00
Cash on hand and in other banks	47 140 54
Rents due January 1, 1877	3 073 22
	$841 067 16

LIABILITIES.

Capital Stock paid up	$150,000 00
Due Depositors	666,223 34
Interest due Depositors	16,603 82
	682 237 21
Earnings	8,769 95
	$841 007 16

C. M. SEIBERT,
Secretary and Treasurer.

We, the undersigned, Auditing Committee, do hereby certify that we have examined the Mortgages, Government Bonds, the book of the bank and counted the money, and find the above statement to be correct.

C. BARCHFELD,
LEWIS KOETHES,
A. KLEBER,
A. GROETZINGER.

DISSOLUTION.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP—THE partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned at Pittsburgh, Pa., under the names of E. W. McCLURE & CO. and D. McCLURE & CO., is this day dissolved by mutual consent. E. W. McCLURE retiring from the business, to which will continue to be conducted by G. T. RAFFERTY, under the name of McCLURE & CO., the claims against the late firm will be settled by the said E. W. McCLURE, and the debts owing to the late firm will be collected by G. T. RAFFERTY.

In retiring from the coke business, the undersigned asks for his succeeding partner the continuance of the patronage and favor which the late firm has enjoyed.

E. W. McCLURE.
Pittsburgh, Pa., January 1, 1877. G. T. RAFFERTY.

THE PARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE EXISTING between WM. H. MORRIS and R. M. MORRIS, under the firm name of
D. R. MORRIS & SON,
is this day dissolved by mutual consent.
D. R. MORRIS,
R. M. MORRIS.
Pittsburgh, December 30, 1876.

LEGAL.

Estate of Frank A. Hug, Deceased.

Letters of administration on the estate of Frank A. Hug, late of Liberty street, Seventeenth ward, Pittsburgh, Alleghany county, deceased, have been granted to Lewis M. Plumer, residing in said city. All whose all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims or demands will make known the same without delay.

LEWIS M. PLUMER, Administrator,
Corner Diamond street and Cherry alley,
s Pittsburgh, Pa.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.
In the matter of JOHN BROWN, BROWN, Bankrupt, No. 1,941 in Bankruptcy.
At Pittsburgh, in said District, on the 27th day of December, A. D. 1876. Western District of Pennsylvania, ss: In pursuance of an order from said Court, of this date, notice is hereby given to R. B. ALLEN, Assignee of said Bankrupt's Estate, to file his final account and pay over to the persons belonging to each class of Bankrupt's estate remaining in his hands, on or before the 20TH DAY OF JANUARY A. D. 1877.
S. C. CANNIDLESS,
Clerk of said Court.
S. SCHOYER, JR.,
Solicitor for Bankrupt. s

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.
In the matter of NEWTON McCLARRAN and JOHN T. McKENNAN, partners as McCLARRAN & McKENNAN, Bankrupts, No. 2,908 in Bankruptcy.
Take notice, that a meeting of the creditors of the said Newton McClarran and John T. McKenan, Bankrupts, will be held at the office of the undersigned, Register in Bankruptcy, No. 98 Diamond street, in the city of Pittsburgh, on TUESDAY, the 18th day of January, A. D. 1877, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of considering and passing upon a proposition to be then and there made by said Newton McClarran and John T. McKennan, in full settlement and satisfaction of all debts due to them; and further, that under the order of the Court directing said meeting, I will attend at the above time and place, and conduct over the proceedings at said meeting. Creditors can attend either in person or by proxy duly appointed.
SAMUEL HARPER,
Register in Bankruptcy.

ALL GOODS
AT
Greatly Reduced Prices,
TO SUIT THE TIMES.
HOLIDAY GIFTS!
FINE PRESENTATION BOOKS,
FINE EDITIONS STANDARD AUTHORS,
BOOKS for CHILDREN,
FAMILY AND POCKET
BIBLES AND PRAYER BOOKS
IN FINE BINDINGS.
Elegant Photograph Albums, Writing Desks, Work Boxes and Library Inkstands, Fine Gold Pens and Pencils, Fine Note Papers and Stationery, Pearl Card Cases, Pencils and Paper Knives, Japanese Goods, Fine Diaries for 1877.
Jas. B. Dodge & Bro.,
127 Fifth Avenue,
between Smithfield and Grant streets.
Open in the evening until 10 P. M.

PENNSYLVANIA MILITARY ACADEMY,
Chester, Delaware County, Pa.
Session reopens January 3. Thorough instruction in Civil Engineering, the Classics and English Branches. For circulars apply to CHAS. H. PAULSON, 66 Wood street, Pittsburgh, or to COL. THEO. HYATT, President.

PATENTS.
Persons desiring to procure Patents, or wishing to obtain information from the U. S. Patent Office, are advised to consult F. A. LEHMANN, of Washington, D. C., corner of Seventh and G streets, or 39 Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh
Send for circular

Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company.
59 FOURTH AVENUE.
ASSETS $ 40,443,395.98.
SURPLUS $ 3,916,531.48
DIVIDENDS REDUCED $3,037,872.93. RATIO EXPENSES TO INCOME 9.75 PER CENT.
E. S. PARRIER, Gen'l Agent.

ADVERTISING Don't do any thing in any paper of papers, until you get our figures; it will cost you nothing and will enlighten you. Address Advertis'g & P'b'g Co., St. Louis, Mo.

DRY GOODS
1877.
Special Inducements to
DURING THE MONTH OF
SEMPLE'S,
At WILLIAM
165, 167 & 169 Fed
eral St., Allegheny.

NEW SUITINGS.
At 12½c, Plaids and Knickerbocker Suitings.
At 10c, new desirable Dress Goods.
At 12½c, Wool Repp Plaids, worth 22c.
At 12½c, Striped and Plaid Dress Goods, special bargains.

DRESS GOODS.
At 18½c, newest colors in Alpaca Poplins.
At 20c, latest shade in double-fold Alpacas.
At 20c, Sicilian Basket Cloth Plaids.

ALPACAS, ETC.
At 13½c, Figured Alpacas, extra bargain.
At 25 to 50c, latest novelties in Brocades and a choice assortment of various Dress Fabrics.
At 50c up, very fine line new Dress Goods.

CASHMERES.
At 18¾ and 25c, fine Colored Cashmeres.
At 30, 33, 37½ and 50c, fine Black Cashmeres, extra bargains, worth from 37½ to 62½c
At 62½ to 87 50, extra super Black Cashmeres. These Cashmeres will be found fully one-third less than usual prices.

DRESS SILKS.
At 85, 90c and $1, heavy Gros Grain Black Silks.
At $1 12½ and $1 25, extra heavy Black Dress Silks.
At $1 37½ and $1 50, special bargain just opened in superior Black Dress Silks.
At 75c, choice shades in Irish Poplins.

GREAT BARGAINS.
At $1, assorted shades of Brown Silks.
At $1 12½ to $2 50, choicest shades in Colored Silks.
Special bargains in Fancy Dress Silks.
Extra good value in our Mourning Goods Department.

NOTICE—Our "Ladies' Journal" for January is now out and bright, new cuts, latest fashions and miscellaneous reading.

HOTELS.
IMPERIAL HOTEL,
The Only First-class Three-Dollar-per-Day Hotel in Washington.
In order to meet the wants of the Traveling Public, this First-class Hotel has reduced its price from Four to Three Dollars per day. The above Hotel is pleasantly located near Fourteenth street, fronting on Pennsylvania avenue, is convenient to the Treasury, Army, Navy, State, Postoffice and Interior Departments.
N. B.—Take the Pennsylvania Avenue Horse Cars, and tell the Conductor to let you off at the Imperial Hotel.
JAMES S. PEIRCE, Proprietor.

LA PIERRE HOUSE,
COR. BROAD & CHESTNUT STS., PHILADELPHIA, PA.
Best location in the city; greatly enlarged and improved; fifty rooms "en suite;" bath; hot and cold water; passenger elevator, and all modern improvements; fitted up in elegant style; first class in all its appointments.
Terms—$2 50 to $4 per day, according to location of rooms, for one day or upward.
Special rates to families and commercial men.
J. B. BUTTERWORTH,
ws Proprietor.

FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL,
(FORMERLY HARE'S HOTEL,)
No. 132 Liberty Street, Foot of Fifth Avenue.
TERMS $2 PER DAY.
HUGH KEYS, Proprietor.

CARPETS.
CARPETS!
DRUGGETS,
OIL CLOTHS,
MATTINGS.
As we near stock taking, we offer SPECIAL BARGAINS.
BOVARD, ROSE & CO.,
29 Fifth Avenue.

J. & H. PHILLIPS,
Manufacturers and Dealers in
Oil Cloths, Window Shades, &c
GREEN SHADE CLOTH A SPECIALTY.
Also, Agents for the BOSTON BELTING CO.'S RUBBER BELTING HOSE, STEAM PACKING, &c.
Dealers in LEATHER BELTING, LACE LEATHER AND RUBBER BELTING, KNAUTH'S
PAINTING, GRAINING and GLAZING
NOS. 26 and 28 SIXTH STREET,
PITTSBURGH, PA.

1876 Christmas 1876
With the return of the season, I would most respectfully ask you to call and examine my large stock of goods suitable for Holiday Presents
In Engravings the line has never been excelled, and in Photographs, Chromos, Water Colors and Lithographs, I have a full and complete stock.
In the Department of Frames, to which special attention has always been given, will be found a large and varied assortment which, for superiority of manufacture and artistic design, cannot be excelled.
W. W. BARKER,
125 FIFTH AVENUE,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ALL GOODS
AT
Greatly Reduced Prices,
TO SUIT THE TIMES.
HOLIDAY GIFTS!
FINE PRESENTATION BOOKS,
FINE EDITIONS STANDARD AUTHORS,
BOOKS for CHILDREN,
FAMILY AND POCKET
BIBLES AND PRAYER BOOKS
IN FINE BINDINGS.
Elegant Photograph Albums, Writing Desks, Work Boxes and Library Inkstands, Fine Gold Pens and Pencils, Fine Note Papers and Stationery, Pearl Card Cases, Pencils and Paper Knives, Japanese Goods, Fine Diaries for 1877.
Jas. B. Dodge & Bro.,
127 Fifth Avenue,
between Smithfield and Grant streets.
Open in the evening until 10 P. M.

R. H. PALMER & CO.
"LIMITED."
SUCCESSORS TO R. H. PALMER.
WILL CONTINUE

FINANCE AND TRADE.

FRIDAY EVENING, January 5, 1877.

The first week of the year draws to a close without any events of importance in commercial circles, business as a general rule being only that which arises out of the settlements now going on. Not much new business has been done in commercial circles as yet, the purchases of merchants being so far confined to the immediate wants of their trade. Consequently, the offerings of commercial paper other than that given in settlements are light, while the loanable surplus of the banks is large. The non-appearance of the Comptroller's call for a statement of the condition of the national banks causes some surprise, but it makes little practical difference in the course of the banks, as the money market has been so easy that they all have had a more than sufficient surplus on hand throughout all the period when the call was expected. It is looked for daily now and may come at any time. Rates of discount are easy and nominally unchanged at the stereotyped figures of 7@9 per cent. for prime commercial paper and 6@7 per cent. on first class collaterals.

—We have frequently called attention to the advantage in our national banking system of the ample proportion of capital to total liabilities which it has so far secured. The weak point in the London joint stock system and in the old banking systems of this country was their relatively small capital, which, while it secures large profits in prosperous time, is apt to afford great liability to disaster in periods of adversity and panic. The important function of the national banking system in furnishing an element of strength and stability to the financial system of the country is seen from the fact that the capital and surplus is $678,000,000, against $666 000,000 of deposits, while the state banks, private banks, &c., of the country with $219,000,000 of capital have $1,061,000,000 deposits.

In this point of view the movement among the national banks to diminish their capital is a matter for considerable anxiety. This movement is the most noticeable in New York although, it has gone so far here that one bank has left the national system altogether, and others have reduced their circulation and contemplate reductions in capital. In New York during the past month an aggregate of six or seven millions has been withdrawn, and the movement has apparently only just begun. The burdens of taxations are generally believed to be the chief cause of this retrograde movement. This doubtless had its effects; but we must also ascribe due weight to the stagnation of business, the plethoric condition of the money market, and the general operations of shrinkage which have gone on for the past three years. Whatever may be the cause, however, the movement is one which, if carried very far, is likely to weaken the banking system of the country, and in that view a wise public policy would take measures to check it, if that is practicable. It certainly is of importance to the country that the elements of solidity which the national banking system has so eminently furnished, should not be lost or destroyed, and if a liberal policy toward the banks in matters of taxation will avert such a policy, the gain to the country will be far greater than any loss which may result through diminution of revenue.

—The *Public* to-day contains valuable statistical compilations showing the clearing house operations for the past year compared with previous years. The aggregate transactions of the clearing houses of twelve of the principal cities (these showing the transactions of 312 out of 391 banks in the different clearing houses) were for 1876 $28,234,691,838, against $31,-291,976,625 in 1875. Commenting on these figures the *Public* says: "Within a week after a year had closed, so large a proportion of its business has never before been reported. The aggregate transactions here compared were $3,292,000,000 in 1875, and the entire value of all property in the country, according to the last census, was only $30,068,000,000. The transactions of 1876 amount to $28,234,000,000. The decline has been about 9,8 per cent. In several cities, as the comparison shows, there has been some increase, New Orleans gaining 9,7 per cent, and Chicago 9,0 per cent; in nearly all the loss has been below the average, and in New York alone has it been greater. Moreover, the aggregate is less than unquestionably the actual decline in prices, so that a larger volume of business as to quantities was transacted in the year than in 1875."

—Since the passage by Congress of the act of April 17, 1876, authorizing the issue of subsidiary silver coin, the Treasury Department has issued certificates for $25,270, of which the amount $15,548,844 was issued to redeem fractional currency, and $10,721,-937 was in lieu of greenbacks. The following statement shows the total amount of bonds issued at the various places named, and the amount of them on hand at the date of the last reports:

	On hand	Total paid.
Washington	$ 66,068	$ 1,59,1,84
New York	93,695	7,631,266
Boston	39,000	3,301,825
Philadelphia	50,882	3,181,231
Chicago	149,293	2,69,1,488
St. Louis	49,450	1,80,0,61
San Francisco	110,008	414,246
New Orleans	79,035	815,127
Charleston		194,350
Baltimore	32,150	205,353
Cincinnati	77,097	2,28,,788
Boston		347,340
Pittsburgh		464,883
Tucson		1,437
In transit—Banks	617,950	
In transit	99,600	
Total	$1 447,722	$25,720 281

—The Philadelphia *Times* says of the money market of that city: "Yesterday the demand for money was quite light, and already the offerings are larger than can be placed even at lower rates. Government bonds, the safest investments, are preferred for railway and corporation mortgage bonds are not neglected, offering, as they do, the inducement of lower figures. Call loans range between 5 and 6 per cent., according to collaterals, and the ruling rates of discount for prime business paper are also from 5 to 6 per cent.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

January 5, 1877.	10:30 M.	11:30 M.	12:30 M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	106¼	106⅛	106⅛	106⅛	106⅛	106⅛
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup.	113½	113¾				113⅝
U. S. 5's, 1907	108¾	108¾				108¾
U. S. 5-20's, 1865, new	110¾	110¾				110⅝
U. S. 5-20's, 1867, registered	113¼	113¼				113¼
U. S. 5-20's, 1867, coupon	113⅝	113⅝				113⅝
U. S. 5-20's, 1868, registered	114	114				113⅝
U. S. 5-20's, 1868, coupon	114¼	114¼				114¼
U. S. 10-40's	110⅝	110¾				110¾
U. S. 10-40's, coupon	110¾	110¾				110¾
Currency 6's	122	121½				121½
New 5-per cents	111	111				111
Western Union Tel	72⅞	72¾	72¾	72¾	72¾	72¾
Quick Silver						
Pacific Mail	23⅝	23⅝	23⅝	23⅝		23⅝
Panama			127			
Adams Express	101		101			101
Wells-Fargo Express	89		87			
American Express	57		57			
United States Ex	55¾		56			
New York Central	107⅜	107⅝	107⅝	107⅝	107⅝	107⅝
Erie	9¾		9¾			9¾
Michigan Central	47½	47½	47½	47½	47½	47½
Michigan Southern	56⅝	56⅝	56⅝	56⅝	56⅝	56⅝
Illinois Central	66		66			66
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	89½		90			90
Chicago & Northwest						36½
Do. preferred						58½
Rock Island	97	101¼	97	101¼	101¼	101¼
St. Paul common	36½		36½	36½	36½	36½
Do. preferred	58¾		58¾		58¾	58¾
Wabash common						14
Fort Wayne	91					
Ohio and Mississippi	7		7			7
Union Pacific	25		25			25
Marlon			136			136
New Jersey Central	36¾	36¾	36¾			36⅝
Hannibal & St. Joe	15½	15	15			15
Do. preferred	29					
Iron Mountain			14			
C. & A.	78		78			78
Del., Lack. & West	75	75¼	75¼			75¼
South Carolinas, Apr		69				
South Carolinas, Jul		62				
Missouri 6's	104½					104½

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central	48¾	48¾	
Reading	19	19⅝	
United Cos. of N. J	126¾		
Phila, Wilm & Baltimo	85	85½	
Lehigh Valley	48	48¼	
Allehny Valley			10½
Central Transportation	39¼	40	
C. & I. L. in. p.	86	87	15
Northern Pacific bonds			

[By Associated Press.]

Gold Closed at 106⅝.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, January 5.—Money 6@7 per cent. gold, closing at 7. Prime mercantile paper 5@7 per cent. Customs receipts $172,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $788,000. Clearings $23,000,000. Sterling dull at 484@486.

GOLD.

Gold heavy and lower, opening at 106¾, and closing at 106⅝. Carrying rates 1 32 per cent. per diem to 6 per annum. Silver at London yesterday was quoted at 57¾ pence per ounce; no quotation to-day; here silver bars are 131⅛ per ounce bid in greenbacks and 123¼ in gold; silver coin 125¾ bid.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

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CITY MATTERS.

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Weather Report.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., ROOM 23, FIRST NATIONAL BANK, PITTSBURGH, PA., January 6, 1877.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	Dir.	Miles ₱ hour	Weath.
7 A.M.	30 200	10	80	S.	3	Foggy.
2 P.M.	30 090	37	60	S.	4	Fair.
9 P.M.	30 116	29	77	S. E.	2	Foggy.

Mean barometer...30.135; Highest thermom... 34
Mean thermom.... 25 Lowest thermom... 9

WAR DEPARTMENT,
SIGNAL SERVICE U. S. ARMY,
PITTSBURGH, January 5, 1877, 10:48 P. M.

Cairo, Ills.—Ther. 44; wind S. E.; cloudy.
Cincinnati, O.—Ther. 34; wind S. E.; clear.
Davenport, Iowa—Ther. 17; wind N.; hazy.
Denver, Col.—Ther. 46; cloudy.
Indianapolis, Ind.—Ther. 37; wind S. E.; clear.
Keokuis, Iowa—Ther. 25; wind E.; fair.
Leavenworth—Ther. 28; wind E.; cloudy.
Louisville, Ky.—Ther. 38; hazy.
Memphis, Tenn.—Ther. 40; wind S. E.; light rain.
Nashville, Tenn.—Ther. 30; cloudy.
Omaha, Neb.—Ther. 34; wind S.; cloudy.
Pittsburgh—Ther. 28; wind S. E.; foggy.
Portland, Oregon—Ther. 32; wind N. W.; foggy.
Salt Lake City—Ther. 35; wind S. E.; clear.
San Diego, Cal.—Ther. 62; wind W.; clear.
San Francisco Cal.—Ther. 63; wind N. W.; clear.
Santa Fe, N. M.—Ther. 28; wind N. E.; clear.
Shreveport, La.—Ther. 41; cloudy.
St. Louis, Mo.—Ther. 36; wind N. E.; cloudy.
Vicksburg, Miss.—Ther. 49; wind E.; light rain.
Fort Gibson—Ther. 38; wind N. W.; cloudy.

If Troubled with Bronchitis

or threat all, try Dr. Jayne's Expectorant an old family medicine for colds and lung affections. MWS&F

Pennsylvania Female College.

The next term will open January 3d. Grammar School Department same date. For information apply to the President, Thomas C. Strong.

Selling Ice from the Reservoir.

The proposition of the Water Committee to sell the ice from Hiland avenue reservoir at the rate of ten cents per ton, will strike the average taxpayer, who thinks, as simply ridiculous. It would be well for committeemen to invite an estimate from the Mechanical Engineer as to the cost of placing water in the basin, and then an idea may be obtained as to the extent of the speculation in selling it *out* in frozen chunks! The wear and tear on the stone work and slopes of the embankment need not be considered.

"Hash."

Professor Pinkerton, of the High School Faculty, addressed the pupils yesterday afternoon, taking for his subject the above title. He explained that although he had authorized the President of the *Phi Kappa Psi* Society to announce his subject as "Hash," it was not his real subject. He said the people themselves were the real subjects upon which he proposed to make a few remarks. He said that owing to the fact that his effort was to be entirely extemporaneous, he thought "Hash" would be more appropriate, than any other title he could choose. The Problems of Life, would have been a very appropriate title for the Professor's lecture. Although extemporaneous, the address was interesting, instructive and eloquent appeal to the pupils to make the best of the golden opportunities which surrounded them in this age, and in this country to make for themselves a name and a character by study, culture and practice which would serve them through life, and enable them to become wise, good, and useful in their day and generation. The lecture was listened to with deep interest to the close, and heartily applauded.

Allegheny Poor Directors.

The Board of Directors of the Poor of Allegheny City held a regular monthly meeting last evening, President Neely in the chair.

The reports of the Steward of the Home, the Clerk of the Board and other officers were presented and, after being read, were received and filed. These reports contain nothing of special interest, excepting one or two recommendations by Steward Grubbs, of the Home, viz: That the money belonging to inmates of the Home shall, in case of their death, be applied for the purchase of a library for the Home; and that women who give birth to illegitimate children at the Home be prosecuted for the crime of fornication if they refuse to disclose the names of the fathers of said children.

Mr. Martin Ley, the member from the Seventh ward, stated that the recent division of his ward had placed him in the Thirteenth ward, and he therefore desired to tender his resignation, and would suggest the election of Mr. Valentine Bacher as a proper person to fill the vacancy. The resignation was accepted and Mr. Bacher elected. Mr. John Sellins, of the Eleventh ward, was elected a member of the Board to fill a vacancy.

A motion was made fixing the salaries of officers for the present year the same as last year. An amendment was proposed that the salary of the Chaplain of the Home be increased $100. The matter was then laid over till the next regular meeting.

Adjourned.

The Death of Fire Marshal Livingston.

A largely attended meeting of the Board of Underwriters was held yesterday at the office of the Monongahela Insurance Company, at which the following preamble and resolutions were presented by a special committee appointed for the purpose, and were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, It has pleased an all-wise Providence to remove from this life John B. Livingston, whilst in the vigor of manhood, and occupying an important and useful position in our community; therefore

Resolved, That in the decease of Mr. Livingston the community has lost a useful and valued member, our Association a faithful and efficient officer, who, in the discharge of his duties, was vigilant, and in his intercourse uniformly courteous.

Resolved, That we tender to the bereaved wife and family in this time of their sorrow, our sincere sympathy and regard.

Resolved, That this action be recorded on our minutes and a copy sent to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Board of Underwriters will attend the funeral of the deceased, as a last mark of respect.

In addition to the above, the Board agreed that until a successor to Mr. Livingston had been appointed, they would recognize the Assistant Fire Marshal, Mr. J. B. McFadden, and his deputies, as authorized to continue the duties so faithfully enacted by the deceased.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States District Court—Judge Ketcham.

Edward Jifkins, bankrupt, Luzerne county. Petition for discharge presented, and order made for a final hearing on the 30th inst.

James M. Laughlin, bankrupt, Erie. Auditor's report, adjusting certain liens, &c., having been confirmed *nisi*, presented and confirmed absolutely.

Zug & Co., bankrupts, same city. Rule granted on trustees to show cause why the said court should not continue jurisdiction over said proceedings.

National Park Bank of New York city vs. James Bryar, debtor, city. Said debtor adjudged a bankrupt and the matter referred to Register Harper. Also an order made restraining certain execution creditors.

Thomas B. Adams, bankrupt, Venango county. Assignee authorized to sell certain personal property.

George Gillmer, bankrupt. Crawford county. Assignee's report on sale of real estate presented and confirmed nisi.

Jonathan Watson, bankrupt, Crawford county. Order made for the notification to certain creditors of a meeting to choose assignee.

S. P. Boyer, bankrupt, Crawford county. Assignee's report presented and confirmed absolutely.

John A. Ewart and John Blackstone filed a petition for the adjudication in bankruptcy of themselves and John W. Wallace and D. W. Roy, trading as Ewart, Blackstone & Co., of Mercer county. Usual order issued.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Stowe.

In the case of the Commonwealth vs. Wm. Haggerty, indicted on oath of John Riley for aggravated assault and battery, a *nolle prosequi* was allowed, the defendant paying the costs.

John Nee, charged with aggravated assault and battery, on oath of Fred. Harlacher. Defendant found not guilty, but directed to pay the costs.

Wm. Smith was convicted, on oath of Thomas Rourke, of larceny. The defendant stole from the prosecutor a quantity of water pipe.

In the case of John Keller, indicted for the larceny of a number of promissory notes from Lorentz Mesta, the defendant, was acquitted.

Charles Theabald, indicted for larceny by bailee on oath of Charles Smith, was found not guilty.

Joseph Bradley, charged with nuisance in maintaining a ferocious dog, was found not guilty, but was directed to pay the costs in the case. Margaret McArdle was the prosecutrix.

John Nee, charged with aggravated assault and battery, on oath of Henry Schmidt, was found guilty of simple assault and battery.

Valentine Brennan is on trial on a charge of felonious assault and battery, W. Knee being the prosecutor. The trouble out of which this case has grown occurred at McKeesport Christmas night, and it is alleged that the defendant, during a fight which occurred there, struck John Hausler on the head with a stone.

Notes.

The case of Mary Ann Tarr *et al.*, vs. John McClosky, previously reported, is still on trial in Common Pleas Court No. 2.

Mary Hoyt, by her next friend, Rebecca Hoyt, entered suit in the Common Pleas Court No. 1 against James Thompson, for three thousand dollars damages, for an alleged slander. The defendant, it is charged, assailed the plaintiff's reputation, in the presence of several persons.

THE PENN AVENUE DECISION

Text of the Opinion of the Chief Justice —Justice Paxson's Dissenting Opinion.

General Sweitzer, Prothonotary of the Western District, yesterday received by express the opinions delivered on Tuesday last, by the Supreme Court, in Western cases, a list of which has already been published. The deep interest excited by the reversal of the judgment in the Penn avenue case, warrants the publication of the opinion in full, as well as the dissenting opinion of Justice Paxson. Following are the documents:

CHIEF JUSTICE AGNEW'S DECISION.

It is fortunate for the rights of the people when a case occurs causing the courts to pause and to retrace the boundaries of delegated power. Thus the stealthy step of invasion may be detected and the power denied ere it be too late, and a precedent becomes fixed beyond judicial control. This is such a case. The attempt is to apply here the frontage rule of valuation of compact city lots, to a rural population, and make farm property and town lots indiscriminately pay for an expensively paved city highway, under the name of a street, running out far into the country. The assumption is that by the addition of extensive rural districts to a city, the whole surface is bonded, by the legislative power, within the sphere of city taxation for municipal purposes, and cases are cited of local or special taxation for local purposes, as justifying this stretch of power. But seeming ana logies must not be allowed to lead our minds astray. Fortunately the subject has been examined in several recent cases, leading to a fuller development of the principles at the foundation of this power. Prominent among them is Hamett vs. Philadelphia, 15 P. F. Smith, 146, and Washington avenue, 19 P. F. Smith, 352. In the early cases the mode of determining the benefits, to pay the damages and the cost of construction, was by actual view and assessment. McMasters vs. Commonwealth, 3 Watts. 292; Newlon's petition, 7 Barr, 173; extension of Hancock street, 6 Harris, 26. These were followed in the later cases of Commonwealth vs. Woods, 8 Wright, 113; McGee vs. Pittsburgh, 10 Wright, 358; Wray vs. Pittsburgh, 10 Wright, 365. Afterward came the frontage mode of equal valuation per foot front. Schenley vs. Allegheny, 1 Casey, 128; Philadelphia vs. Tryon, 11 Casey, 57; McGonigle vs. Allegheny, 8 Wright, 118; Stroud vs. Philadelphia, 11 P. F. Smith, 256. In none of these cases was there a close examination of the per foot front rule, but it seems to have been assumed as a convenient approximation where property fronting on the street was of a kind and not differing much in value. But in Washington avenue it is shown that his mode of valuation is but a substitute for actual assessment. It is there said: "So long, therefore, as a law faithfully and reasonably provides for a just assessment according to the benefits conferred, and does not impose unfair and unequal burthens, it cannot be said to exceed the legislative power of taxation when exercised for proper objects. It is on the ground only that assessments according to the frontage of property on a public street to pay for its opening, grading and paving, can be justified. As a practical result in cities and large towns, the per foot front mode of assessment reaches a just and equal apportionment in most cases." Again: "But it is an admitted substitute only because practically it arrives as nearly as human judgment can ordinary reach, at a reasonable and just apportionment of the benefits on abutting properties." "But this rule, as a practical adjustment of proportional benefit can apply only to cities and large towns, where the density of population along the street and the small size of the lots make it a reasonably certain mode of arriving at a true result. To apply it to country and to farm lands would lead to such inequality and injustice as to deprive it of all soundness as a rule, or as a substitute for a fair and impartial valuation of benefits in pursuance of law, so that at first blush every one would pronounce it to be palpably unreasonable and unjust."

It needs no reasoning to prove the soundness of these views. That the benefits a property owner receives from an improvement, can be ascertained only by a reasonable mode of assessment, is plain; and that to measure the frons of all the abutting properties and divide the cost by an equal charge per foot front upon each, is not an assessment of advantages, but simply an arbitrary mode of charging is equally plain. Therefore, to be just and equally fair to each, it is evident all the owners must stand in like, or reasonably equal circumstances; otherwise the charge is an exaction, not a fair assessment. The cases of frontage cited, as far as discoverable, were of city lots in close juxtaposition. The frontage rule, when applied to such cases is not denied. As remarked in Washington avenue: "Whatever doubt might have been originally entertained of it as a substitute, which it really is, for actual assessment by jurors or assessors under oath, it has been so often sanctioned by decision it would ill become now to unsettle its foundation by disputing its principle."

These remarks will enable us to test the case before us. The law under which the proceedings took place was peculiar, and in some respects extraordinary. It was passed April 2, 1870. P. L., 796. A marked feature is that it gives power to a majority of the abutting owners on Penn avenue, between St. Mary's avenue and the eastern boundary of the city of Pittsburgh, a distance of about three miles, to elect a commission of five citizens, without any previous ordinance or subsequent control of the city. The only assent of the city required was its approval of the act before its taking effect. Then the commissioners were to determine the kind of pavement, contract for the work, make requisitions on the city for bonds and sell them to raise money to pay the contractors. When the avenue was completed it would remain in the city control. The commissioners were to ascertain, on completion, the entire amount of bonds sold by them and the interest, and that should be taken to be the cost of the improvement and assessed equally per foot front upon the abutting properties. They were to give notice, and within twenty days might correct errors. After that their judgment becomes final without appeal.

Now, though technically it may be said the improvement was made under municipal authority, because of the general approval of the act by the city, yet in fact the improvement is made by a majority of the owners, the minority *volens volens*. It is, perhaps, not beyond the power of the legislature to authorize the work to be done by such a commission, but it will be seen that practically the voice of the property owner, who objects to be thus charged with the expense, is not heard, even through his representatives in the city Councils. The municipal authority cannot even intervene for his protection. Now, without citing a decision on these harsh features of the law, they constitute strong reasons for a rigid examination into the power of the legislature to authorize the frontage rule to be applied to this case. The east end of Penn avenue, upon which this improvement is made, extends from St. Mary's Cemetery, near the United States Arsenal, eastward for about three miles, as shown by the distance upon the plot made part of the stated case; passing in that distance through grounds of several cemeteries, and through lands partly farms, partly large rural residences, partly smaller and partly the lots of several hamlets and villages, which were taken into the city service. The avenue is a broad, wood paved highway, after the manner of a city street, and its cost as evidenced by the bonds issued, was $256,500, while the cost per foot front, as evidenced by the map and the charge, was within a small fraction of $10; the defendant's lot being 168 ft 10 inches front, and his assessments $1,073 84. The bonds which, under the seventeenth section, were made the cost of the improvement, were made up of the contract price and the incidental expenses. The contracts were to be let by the commissioners without supervision, the law providing for no settlement of their account, and the expenses were such as might be determined by the commissioners to be incidental and subject to no review. The commissioners were, no doubt, reputable men, and, so far as their personal supervision went, their duties were performed no doubt faithfully. Yet such a system, which subjects the property holders to jobbing contracts and ingenious expedients such as men bent on making all they can out of their job, and to patent right claims for wooden streets which rot out in seven or eight years, without a power of self-protection, or the control of even their representatives in Councils, is not to be viewed complacently. How near the actual value of the improvement approximated the estimated bond cost, may be inferred when it is seen that the whole cost was $350,000, and the per foot cost $10. This bonding of town and country, of city lots and farm lands, of the residences of the living and the graves of the dead, constitute a group so motley and discordant, a series so wanting in similitude and uniformity, that the frontage or per foot rule cannot be applied to it. It is so plainly, palpably, rankly and uniformly unjust, it must be pronounced no proper or lawful mode of special taxation, but an injustice so rank, it is therefore void as against the right of property as protected by the bill of rights. The ground of this has been so distinctly stated in the Washington avenue case, it need not be restated here. (19 P. F. Smith, page 363.)

A fixed sum to be paid per foot without regard to the character, kind, value or extent of the property is an exaction, not a just assessment. The extent back to which the line may (120 feet) merely limits the quantity to be taken, but does not change the kind, character or value of the property upon which the fixed charge is fastened.

But it is said that Seely's lot is in a village and therefore the per foot rule may apply to him. Possibly this might have been the case had the streets of that village not been improved. But this is not its character. The act assumes to make a wide and costly avenue extending long distances through rural lines where it is not needed, and to make the cost of the whole the measure of the cost of each owner. It makes a unit of the entire distance, where the per foot front rule obtains and where it does not obtain, and then divides this integer into fractions of a foot, imposing on the defendant his proportion of the fractions. Such a mode of charging might be continued for any indefinite distance over the State, and the owner of each lot in every village through which the line passes, be made to pay his per foot charge of the entire route. The principle of such a system is wrong, and therefore cannot be applied even to the village lot owner. If the rural portions of the route be exempt, as clearly they must be, then must all others be also, for the system itself is founded on a general error. If this case be examined closely, what is it but a repetition of the Hamett or Broad street case in principle, differing only in form. Penn avenue, like Broad street, is a grand thoroughfare designed for the use of the people of the city proper, where they may run out into the country for pleasure or profit: that it is a great useful public improvement, so long as its wooden pavement lasts, no one will deny. But it is their very public character for general use, and not for local benefit through the farms and along the cemeteries, which should protect the owners along the route from special taxation. More literally and directly the case is governed by the case of Washington avenue, which it resembles more closely in form and fact.

More than once lately we have had occasion to reprehend that legislation which seeks to cast the burdens of the public on the shoulders of individuals, often bringing ruin on men of moderate means. Such legislation is too often the fruit of designing schemers to promote their selfish ends. We may, therefore, say that no rule of taxation rate is conceded to be a legal mode of assessment, when properly applied, it is not to be used as an arbitrary mode of casting the public burdens upon the property of individuals.

To prevent any misconception of the facts, we may add before closing, that they came up as a stated case, and not in any suit form. If there be any facts to raise an estoppel or other defense in equity, the parties ought to have stated them. No motion has been made to quash the case as defective. The case itself states "that the line of said improvement in part runs through what is called the rural or suburban part of the city, and the defendant's premises are situated in such rural district. The plan referred to includes large tracts of land, fronting on the avenue, whose lines and measurements noted prove that they are not city lots. For example, St. Mary's Cemetery fronts 1,000 feet, Philip Wine Biddle's property 1,261 on one side and 2,427 feet on the other. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company's land 1,829. Then we find many tracts fronting 300 to 400 feet, 400 to 500, 500 to 600, 600 to 700, 700 to 800, and 800 to 1,000. The facts of the case, therefore, distinctly appear, and we ought not of our own motion to quash the case.

The judgment of the court below is, therefore, reversed, and judgment is now entered for defendant with costs.

JUDGE PAXSON'S DISSENTING OPINION.

I do not concur in the judgment. Owing to the meagre presentation of the facts, I have found it difficult to come to an intelligent conclusion. It appears from the case stated that "the line of said improvements in part runs through what is called the rural or suburban part of the city, and defendant's premises are situated in such rural district." This bald statement, with a plan that furnishes little practical information, is all we have upon which to base a decision of vast importance, both in its principle and immediate results flowing therefrom. The case, as it appears to my mind, is one in which we ought to have the fullest information.

There is another matter which it is proper to refer to. It is alleged in counter statement of the defendant in error, and not denied, "that no property owner along the line of any streets or avenues improved under this system has in any manner formally objected to these improvements while they were in progress; that the improvements were under the direct and exclusive direction of the persons directly interested, to wit: the property owners; and that should this case be reversed it would practically add over $5,000,000 to the debt of the city of Pittsburgh." If the fact be that this plaintiff was among those who were eagerly clamoring for the benefits of this system, and held his peace while the improvements were in progress, it is an answer to so much of his case as is based upon the allegation of its special hardships. It is only for such of the improvements referred to were of no benefit to him. Having received the benefit, and having stood by while the improvements were made, without interposing an objection, knowing that his property was to be assessed for its *pro rata* share of the expense, he is in no position to complain. He would be estopped from doing so in any equitable proceeding. He may not be estopped from setting up his defense at law, but it furnishes a reason why this court should move with caution, and act only with all the lights that can be thrown upon the case. For the reason given I would quash the case stated.

THE TEMPERANCE WORK.

Another Large Audience at the Fifth Avenue M. P. Church Last Evening—Meetings To-morrow.

Notwithstanding the large number of temperance meetings held in various sections of the two cities last evening, the Fifth Avenue Methodist Protestant church was filled to overflowing before the hour appointed for the opening.

In the absence of Mr. Murphy, who was attending, in the early part of the evening, the meeting at the North Avenue Methodist Episcopal church, Allegheny, Mr. George Hall presided.

The business of the evening began with the usual devotional exercises.

Rev. J. J. Murray was the first speaker, and stated that next week being designated as the week for prayer, meetings for this purpose will be held in this church each afternoon at three o'clock, to which all are invited, and particularly those who have signed the pledge and desire to live a higher life.

Chancellor Wood announced that rooms for the headquarters of the Pittsburgh Reform Club would soon be selected. A consultation with some prominent business men was had yesterday, and the money for his purpose has been guaranteed.

Rev. Johnston thought that when he reviewed this work, its magnitude made him feel that he had been left a long way behind in the temperance work, notwithstanding he had always tried to do what little he could for the cause.

Mr. Nelson noticed an alarm habit of speaking, but hoped to see in these United States the prayers of the Christian people answered. Mr. Murphy has stimulated the people to action and he hoped that the good work may go on until every rum shop is closed.

T. W. Gillespie could not see why he was called on to speak, for he had been listening to the wavy, intemperance, but now he thanked God that he was a free man and trusted for His grace to help him keep the pledge inviolate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

An adjourned meeting of the committee of business men who have guaranteed the funds for establishing a headquarters for the Pittsburgh Reform Club, will be held in the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock.

It was fully 9 o'clock before Mr. Murphy returned from the meeting in Allegheny. He reported a glorious time there, and many people signing the pledge.

The committee of ladies appointed to attend to the procuring of banners for the Pittsburgh Reform Club, are as follows: Mrs. C. H. Lincoln, Mrs. W. W. Morris, Miss Mattie King, Mrs. Hartfield Linton, Mrs. J. K. Barbour, Mrs. Dewrose, Miss Sadie Smythe, Mrs. Childs, Mrs. Fell. This committee is requested to meet in the lecture room of the Fifth Avenue Church this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The speakers for the meeting at Library Hall Sunday evening are, M. Swartzwelder, Esq., Colonel Reaf, Mr. Thomas McClelland, Captain John Gill, Mr. N. McClarren, Mr. George H. Woods, Joseph R. Hunter, Esq., Mr. George Hall, Mr. Murphy and others.

The noonday prayer meeting to day will be held in the Smithfield Street Methodist Episcopal church.

Meeting on Sunday afternoon at three o'clock in the Methodist Protestant church, Fifth avenue, for railroad men, led by Mr. Murphy.

A temperance meeting will be held in the Smithfield Methodist Episcopal church on Sunday evening. Interesting speakers will address the meeting.

The Intermediate Prison.

Mayor Phillips and Messrs. T. H. Nevin and George A. Kelly, the committee appointed by the Board of Prison Inspectors to lay before the State Board of Public Charities the matter of converting the Reform School property, at Wood's Run, into an intermediate prison, returned home yesterday. They report that they met the Board in Philadelphia on Thursday, and submitted to that body the plan of the Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary for the annexation to that institution of the old Reform School property and its adaptation to prison purposes. The project was fully explained to the board by Mr. Nevin, who said the State would have to assume the bonded indebtedness of the Reform School, amounting to $183,832 23, payable in installments at intervals between the present and the year 1885, and appropriate $75,000 additional to adapt the old buildings to their intended use. Mr. Nevin urged the necessity of prompt measures for the relief of the Penitentiary building, which was now so much overcrowded that in many cases three men had to be placed in one cell, there being but 342 cells and 727 inmates. These cells were for the most part designed for but one occupant, and the placing of three men in them tended to subvert morals and disciplinary control. It was also proposed that the Board of Inspectors be increased from five to seven, but no changes in the laws controlling the present prison were suggested. The basis of transfer of prisoners from the old penitentiary to the annex was also laid before the Board of Charities. The general plan and the above suggestions all met with the approval of the board, and a committee was apointed to prepare a bill incorporating these provisions for passage by the Legislature. The act will be drafted at once, and come before the law makers for their action some time next week.

FEW are aware of the importance of checking a cough or common cold in its first stage. That which in the beginning would yield to a mild remedy, if neglected, soon preys upon the Lungs. Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup affords instant relief. Price, 25 cents.

TWO MORE STREET DECISIONS

Pusey vs. Allegheny, and Irwin's Executors vs. Pittsburgh—Damages for Street Openings to be Assessed by a Jury

Among the Supreme Court decisions received yesterday, by Prothonotary Sweitzer, were those delivered in the case of Pusey and wife vs. Allegheny, and Irwin's executors vs. Pittsburgh—both arising under the laws regulating the assessment of damages for the opening of streets. The Court holds that the property owner, whose land is taken for public use, is entitled, under the new Constitution, to demand a jury trial, if not satisfied with the damages awarded by the viewers. The following is the substance of the decisions:

Wm. B. Pusey and wife vs. Allegheny City. This was an appeal taken from the action of the Court of Common Pleas No. 2, vacating an order for a trial by jury, to determine the amount of damage sustained in the opening of a street. An appeal had been taken to the Court of Quarter Sessions, from the report of viewers on the opening of Charles street, and a demand made for a trial by jury to determine the damages sustained by plaintiffs by reason of opening said street. The court ordered the appeal to be filed and certified the case to the Common Pleas No. 2 for jury trial. A rule to show cause, taken by the City Solicitor, the order allowing the appeal was revoked and vacated. From this action of the Common Pleas No. 2, Pusey and wife appealed to the Supreme Court. The Chief Justice, in deciding the case, holds that Pusey and wife were entitled to a jury trial under the new Constitution and the act of 13th June, 1874, and vacated the order of the Common Pleas No. 2, striking off the order allowing the trial by jury, thus restoring the order, and remitting the record with an order directing a jury trial. Joseph S. Morrison, Esq., appeared for Pusey and wife Henry W. Williams and John McCord, executors of Anna M. Irwin, deceased, vs. the City of Pittsburgh; error to the Court of Common Pleas No. 1. The Chief Justice remarks that this case is governed by the decision in the Pusey case. The acts of Assembly are nearly identical in both cities, so far as these proceedings are involved. In this case a verdict has been found by the jury, in favor of the plaintiffs, for $12,000, but the Court below struck off the case for want of jurisdiction, after refusing a new trial. The Chief Justice says: "The plaintiffs were entitled to a judgment on their verdict. The order striking off the case is therefore reversed, and this court proceeding, to give the same judgment which the court below ought to have rendered, now give judgment on the verdict for the plaintiff, for the damages found by the jury, to wit: The sum of $12,000, with costs of suit, and the record is ordered to be remitted to the Court of Common Pleas No. 1 for execution." Col. Duff appeared for Irwin's executors. It will be seen that this decision an execution can at once be issued against the city for the amount of the judgment, if it is not paid on demand. The usual method of assessing the damages us in the property benefitted cannot be pursued in this case, and the city must pay up on demand. On the whole the street improvement laws have received a very severe shaking up at the hands of the Supreme Court.

The Temperance Movement.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

I see that some one takes me to task for my strictures on the Murphy movement, and gives quite a glowing account of the good that has already come of it. I think there is no real difference between "J. C." and Murphy. I was not questioning the good that has come of it, but that which is to come "at last." This is the day of "the famous victory;" the "good at last" comes in by and by.

I do not concede that the tramp part of the movement is even a present good, for this is evil, evil now, only evil, and will be that continually. Feeding men in idleness is nothing but evil, and totally deny that men cannot get work. True, they may not be able to get it at the wages demanded; but men who will buy or steal rather than work, at whatever they can get are enemies to society. I know that all over this country rich harvests rot on the ground for want of hands to gather them, because idle men demand more wages than the market value of all the fruit and grain they would gather and store. Then winter comes and these same idlers demand a living at the expense of the industrious. But grant that I am wrong in this my opinion; grant that the tramp is the innocent victim of circumstances, and I say that the effort and money spent to keep him in idleness would find him work at wages that would support him.

I simply say, set your tramps to cleaning this mud and snow and low off your streets and pay each one fifty cents a day and lodging. Do this for his benefit as well as that of society. Teach him habits of industry and these will do him, and Atlantic now consolidated with the Western Union. much more good than the art of singing sensational hymns. "J. C." has not seen me in a Murphy meeting, and will not until I acquire the art of living on the moral force which would be fatal to me, now, in a very short time. I stepped one forenoon into the prayer meeting in the basement of the Sixth street Methodist church, and found about two hundred men reeking in carbonic acid gas and odors so foul that the memory takes me sick. Some were singing hymns, some loafing and toasting themselves by the fire; all able bodied men, idle and our streets dangerous for man and horse, as the delicate women were trudging and tramping around to get food for them!

I do not know when I have had so thorough a disgust for anything. I should have left many of them to their fates, whipped on the spot. Talk about the souls of strong men who lie back and loaf while delicate women beg or work to get a living for them! All the souls they have are in their boots, and the saving they want is soap and water. But "J. C." says the greater portion of those who sign the pledge are working men.

So much the worse! A tramp is so thoroughly demoralized that you cannot do his morals much harm; but a working man has a long way to fall before he reaches the bottom, and all I know of temperance pledges leads me to dread them as moral poison. One of Murphy's band informed me gravely that out of three thousand who had to sign the pledges they confidently expected fifty to keep it; and, turning up her eyes in an ecstasy, she thanked God for the fifty who were to be saved, but said never a word for the two thousand nine hundred and fifty, who are demoralized for their salvation!

According to this estimate, we are to make two thousand nine hundred and fifty liars—law-breakers—that we may rescue fifty drunkards! Now I would rather see a man a drunkard than a liar! The old Scotchman used to get drunk every day and maintained a national existence, even supremacy; but a nation of liars is impossible, for truth is the bond of society. Everything which tends to break down our national reverence for truth is a direct blow at our national life.

A man who disregards his word is unfit for citizenship; one who evades his written bond should be a penal prisoner of the State; yet our whole temperance movement, running back fifty years, has been a school in which men have learned to disregard their word and their bond. Millions have signed temperance pledges and violated them; so we are indirectly responsible for the manufacture of millions of liars, bond-breakers! I say "we," for I, too, have sinned in this matter, in having been a temperance agitator for fifty years.

I have added to quite a number of famous victories, and, for some years past, have, like little Peterkin, been asking what good came of them at last. To this pertinent query the only answer I can give is "None, done whatever! No good; but, on the contrary, an incalculable amount of evil."

Fred. Wells and Geo. White, tramps, destitute and without a place of shelter, stole a chair from Gross & Co.'s furniture establishment, in Allegheny, Thursday evening in order to be arrested, and yesterday morning were sent to the Workhouse for ninety days each on a charge of vagrancy on their own confession. Warren Upton, also a vagrant, was sent up for a similar term.

Before we began to teach men to lie and break their bonds, courts of justice and of investigation had little trouble in ascertaining facts. Now the testimony in most prominent cases is a mass of contradiction and perjury, and we seem to be rapidly approaching the time when no man will or can believe another.

We are gravely told that business suffers for want of confidence, and what is this but want of truth? People may refuse to see or admit the connection between the wholesale pledge-making and pledge-breaking of the past fifty years, and the wholesale swindling of to-day; but a little calm reflection should teach any one that when a man has once broken his word, it is easier for him to do it again. When he has done both publicly, and lost public esteem, he has a public license for lying and pledge-breaking, and the people who have, in the past fifty years, taken and broken temperance pledges, in this country, may be counted by the million. There are enough of them to have made this species of falsehood almost universal, and, consequently, respectable; and is it not a logical sequence that he who will lie about one thing will about another?

We certainly, as a people, are rapidly loosing all confidence in each other's word or written bond, and we certainly under an idea of promoting temperance have been training one another to break bonds, and it seems to me quite time we gave up this wholesale manufacture of bond-breakers.

If temperance cannot be promoted in some other and better way, we had better give it up and let matters take their course. Better that fifty men should die in the gutter drunk than that two thousand nine hundred and fifty should break their bonds, violate their word, and so take a long step toward total demoralization.

But, by all means, set the tramps to shoveling and carting the dirt off the streets, and if they cannot get along without coddling, some good folks might stand on the sidewalk and lead exercises, so that they could sing, pray and shovel at the same time; but whatever comes of the singing be sure they do the shoveling. JANE GREY SWISSHELM.

Common Council Meeting.

The Common Council met yesterday to finish the business before them. The action of Select Council, adopting an ordinance fixing the salary of the Message Clerk and Chief Page, Charley Houston, at $500 per annum, was concurred in. The Council then adjourned.

THE Local Option State Executive Committee meets in Harrisburg on next Tuesday at ten o'clock A. M.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

"SERVICE OF SONG" for young men tonight at 7½ o'clock at the Y. M. C. A. rooms.

REV. THOMAS C. STRONG, D. D., will preach in the Third Presbyterian Church to-morrow morning and evening.

THE Bible Idea of Temperance will be the subject of Rev. F. Leroy Sanour at the Central Presbyterian church, Smithfield street, near Sixth avenue, Sabbath evening, at 7:30 o'clock.

REV. W. H. GILL, pastor of the Central Presbyterian church, corner of Lacock and Anderson streets, Allegheny, will preach to-morrow evening on "The Ashtabula Bridge Disaster."

REV. SAMUEL CARLISLE, of New York city, will officiate to-morrow at the Second Presbyterian Church (late Dr. Howard's), Penn avenue and Seventh street. Services at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

THE last of the series of sermons on the inspiration will be delivered by the pastor, J. W. Sproull, in the Central Reformed Presbyterian Church of Allegheny, to-morrow evening at 7½ o'clock.

Services will be held to-morrow morning at 10½ o'clock in the Sandusky street Baptist church, Allegheny. The pastor, Rev. B. F. Woodburn, will take as the subject of his discourse, "A new life for the new year."

REV. R. W. PEARSON, D.D., will administer the communion and receive new members at the Fourth avenue Baptist church to-morrow morning. Evening sermon on "The Missing Cup Found." Services in this church every night next week.

THE next regular meeting of the Evangelical Ministerial Association of Pittsburgh, Allegheny and vicinity, will be held in the lecture room of the First Presbyterian church, on Monday, January 8th, at two P. M. Question, "What are the teachings of the Bible with regard to lay preaching?" Opened by Rev. C. E. Felton, D.D.

REV. C. E. FELTON, D.D., pastor of Christ M. E. church, will deliver an address to-morrow afternoon at four o'clock, in the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association. This is the third lecture in the series addressed to Christian workers. His subject is, "The field for Christian work open to us."

THE Eleventh U. P. church, of the thirty sixth ward, will hold their communion on to-morrow (Sabbath) Services at 10:30 A. M., and at seven o'clock P. M. Rev. Marcus Ormond, of West Alexandria, Pa., will assist on the occasion. The subject of his discourse in the evening will be The Great Question of the Day. All are invited. Seats free.

THE pastor of the Penn Avenue Baptist Church, East End (Rev. J. S. Wrightnour), has had much reason to be grateful to his people for many kind gifts received from them during the holidays and previously. The last was a surprise party on New Year's eve which left the table loaded with good things. The surprise was complete and gratefully received.

H. K. PORTER, Esq., will lead the Sunday school teachers' noon meeting to-day at the Young Men's Christian Association rooms, No. 33 Fifth avenue. Meeting continues from 12 to 12:45 o'clock, and immediately upon its close a meeting of Sunday school superintendents will be held to take some action in reference to the request of Mr. Moody "that the Sunday schools of the country take up a collection on Sunday, January 14th, for the benefit of the children of Mr. P. P. Bliss."

THE forty second anniversary of the Sandusky street Baptist Sabbath school, Allegheny, will be held to-morrow afternoon, at two o'clock. The annual reports of the home and mission schools will be read by their respective Superintendents. Addresses will be made by Rev. S. M. Vernon, Rev. L. Maguire, and Rev. B. F. Woodburn. The anniversary exercises will be continued in the evening, at seven o'clock, when addresses will be delivered by the Rev. S. J. Wilson, D. D., and others. The friends of the school are cordially invited.

THE "Week of Prayer" according to annual custom, will be observed at the Union Noon Prayer meeting, held daily at the Y. M. C. A. rooms, from 12 to 12:45 o'clock, the meeting being led by ministers representing the different denominations. The following is the programme for the week:

Monday, January 8th.....Rev. A. Templeton, Thanksgiving and Confession.
Tuesday, January 9th.....Rev. A. Wheeler, D.D., Prayer for the Church of Christ.
Wednesday, January 10th.....Rev. J. R. Kyle, Prayer for the Unconverted.
Thursday, January 11th.....Rev. W. T. Beatty, Prayer for God's Blessing upon our Country.
Friday, January 12th.....Rev. T. L. Colhouer, Prayer for Christian Missions.
Saturday, January 13th.....T. J. Gillespie, The Sin of Jeroboam.
1st Kings 12: 25-33. Sunday School Lesson for next Day.

Written requests for prayer for unconverted friends may be presented at the meeting held on Wednesday, January 10th.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

PITTSBURGH COUNCILS will organize for 1877 on Monday next.

THE Central Board of Education will meet on Tuesday next.

THE offices of the Pittsburgh Gas Company are among the dingiest in town.

THE applications at the office of the Board of Gu